

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

V. L. VLI.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER, 1902.

No. 26

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BIRTHS.

On the 10th December, at No. 2, Sungkiang Road, Shanghai, the wife of HARRY DE GRAY, of a son.

On the 10th December, at No. 3, Westlands Bungalows, Penang, the wife of TH. J. VAN ROSSUM, of a son.

On the 11th December, at Singapore, Mrs. PERCY L. WAIT, of a son.

On the 13th December, at 96, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, the wife of A. HOSON, of a son.

On the 20th December, at "Ian Mor" (West), Peak Road, the wife of JOHN A. JUPP, of a son.

At Kua'a Lumpur, the wife of F. MINJOT, clerk of works, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 1st December, at St. Nicholas' Church, Newchwang, by the Rev. F. H. Sprent, ERNEST WILLIAM SHARPLES, to HESTER ISABEL HENCKEN-DOBBIE.

On the 11th December, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Singapore and Sarawak, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon Dunkerley, ARTHUR HENRY, second son of the late CHARLES BAGNALL, Whithy, York-shire, to MARY STEWART, younger daughter of JOHN FRASER, Inverardian, Crianlarich, Perth-shire, late of Singapore.

On the 15th December, in the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, by the Rev. S. S. Walker, M.A., JAMES T. DOBBIE, of the *Siam Observer*, Bangkok, son of JAMES DOBBIE, schoolmaster, of Ayr, Scotland, to LILLIAS, daughter of Mrs. L'EN-DEKSON, of 565, Springburn Road, Glasgow.

On 25th inst., at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Bickling, WILLIAM HUNTER, eldest son of the late Rev. W. M. HUNTER, of Mac-duff, Aberdeenshire, to MARIE ALICE RAE, youngest daughter of ALEXANDER RAE, of Culter, Aberdeenshire.

DEATHS.

On the 10th December, at 153, Serangoon Road, Singapore, MARIA LOUISA, the wife of E. D. KRAAL, aged 59 years.

On the 11th December, at Foochow, WILLIAM ITCALAN GALTON, aged 63 years.

On the 20th December, at 9.30 p.m., at 33, Hollywood Road, A. V. CHERJEE MANICKJEE MERTTA, manager, Messrs. Tata & Co., Hongkong, aged 55 years.

On the 23rd December, at 28, Caius Road, ELIZABETH, the dearly beloved wife of G. J. W. KING, aged 45 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The German mail of the 25th November arrived per N.D.L. steamer *Prinzess Irene* on the 24th December (29 days); and the Canadian mail of the 13th November arrived per C.P.R. steamer *Empress of China* on the 24th December (41 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Reuter's Peking correspondent telegraphs that Russia is pressing China to assent to the establishment of a Russian Customs Postal service in Manchuria independent of the Chinese Maritime Customs postal service.

M. C. Hardouin, French Consul at Canton, has been appointed General Secretary to the Indo-Chinese Government. The appointment is regarded as indicating renewed efforts on the part of France to promote trade and political relations with Yunnan and Kwangsi.

The Kashing correspondent of the *Mercury* wrote on the 16th inst.:—"Ta-mu has been brought to Kashing, and the family is now receiving visits of condolence. The funeral is to take place next month. We hear that it is to be conducted quietly, without a great deal of pomp and ceremony."

According to *L'Echo de Chine*, Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, having heard that there are still some Boxers in his province, and that they learn the Boxer business during the night, has given strict orders to his subordinates to employ themselves diligently both night and day, in order that they may arrest all bad characters, etc.

The London *Standard's* Odessa correspondent remarks that Russian service journals are pressing upon the St. Petersburg government the absolute incumbency of creating a Russian Pacific fleet able to prevent Japan from establishing naval supremacy in the Far East. The steady increase of the Japanese Fleet is viewed at St. Petersburg with serious misgivings.

Our correspondent at Shanghai wired on the 7th December:—"A reliable letter from Shensi says that General Tung Fu-hsiang is in Kansu preparing ten thousand well-found troops and buying large quantities of grain and fodder for his soldiers. His intention it is believed, is to exterminate all foreigners in the provinces of Shensi and Kansu and to seize Hsianfu. A friendly official is advising all foreigners to leave Kansu. The Chinese authorities at Peking appear to be unwilling or powerless to control Tung Fu-hsiang. Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is disgusted and earnestly desires to retire."

Mr. J. Gram, formerly a Minister of State of Norway, has been chosen to act as umpire in the House Tax arbitration between Japan and the Powers.

The *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent telegraphs under date Tientsin, 11th December:—"The railway siding dispute is now in Mr. Detring's hands for the final decision of the only point which still remains undecided."

A Peking despatch, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, states that the plot to wrest the control from the present Director-General of the China Merchants' Co. has failed and that to all appearances there will be no change made for some time yet.

A Changsha, Hunan, despatch states that owing to the previously reported breaking into Kweichow province of a large body of Kwangsi rebels, and the probable invasion by them of Hunan territory, the authorities of that province have sent two regiments to Paoingfu, and are also raising new battalions to strengthen the present territorial army.

L'Echo de Chine says that the steamer *Amiral Exelmans* has been chartered by the French Government to take away the French garrison from Shanghai. The withdrawal will be completed in one operation, probably on the 24th or 25th of this month, as soon as the necessary preparations for the conveyance of the horses and mules of the battery of artillery can be made on the transport. The Shanghai garrison will relieve the detachment now at Kwanchauwan. Lt.-Colonel Diguët, the Commander, will proceed from Kwanchauwan to Tonkin, where he will have the command of an important military district, a post usually held by a full colonel.

A report from Tokyo is to the effect that the Japanese Government has now added to the estimate of expenditure in the budget for the next fiscal year a sum which is to be devoted to the expansion of the Navy. It is calculated that 62,348,269 yen is required for shipbuilding, 29,001,303 yen for armament, and 8,510,722 yen for buildings on shore—a grand total of 99,860,305 yen, the disbursement of which it is proposed to carry over the next eleven years in instalments. A proportion of this amount now finds a place in the present Budget, viz., 2,687,682 yen. This is made up of 1,241,088 yen for shipbuilding and 1,446,594 yen for armament. This swells the total estimated national expenditure of the coming year to 243,236,654 yen.

Alarming rumours are current, says the *China Times*, of a plan which is said to be on foot in the Palace at Peking to do away with the Emperor and substitute Yung Lu's princely son-in-law. Yung Lu is, according to this story, growing nervous at the prospect which comes daily nearer of the Empress Dowager's gradual retirement from active control of affairs, owing to her old age, and does not like the contemplation of his being put into the background should the Emperor regain control. Sooner or later there will be a great struggle of parties, and the present scare is probably a mere anticipation of it. Not much importance is to be attached to the talk of the Peking tea-shops in matters of fact, but some note may well be taken of the general political uneasiness which is the fertile source of origin of these rumours.

THE QUARRY BAY RIOT.

(Daily Press, 23rd December.)

The very terrible affair which took place on Sunday evening at Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE's works at Quarry Bay illustrates the difficulties attending life and industrial enterprise in the Far East and at the same time suggests that there is an opportunity for certain action on the part of the authorities responsible for the good government of this Colony. Particulars will be found in another column of the riot which led to the death of at least three men. The case was one of race against race, of Chinese against Indians, with tremendous numerical odds against the latter, whose losses therefore were of course proportionately much heavier, one man being pounded to death with stones as he was kneeling on his prayer mat, while two more are likely to die in hospital. Owing to the peculiar temperament of the Chinese it is necessary here to entrust such duties as those of watchman, tallyman, etc., to men of a different race, and some of our British Indian subjects, roughly described as Sikhs, are almost universally employed, their faithfulness to their employers and their general refusal to act in collusion with Chinese of dishonest character being strong recommendations. But, as is a very familiar fact, there is no love lost between the Chinese and the imported race, and there is always present the element of trouble arising from mutual dislike and contempt. Sunday's affray appears to have arisen from a very small beginning, but there may be more in the matter than at present is known. In any case, there is no doubt of the seriousness of the outcome, and things cannot well be allowed to rest as they are. It seems plain on the face of it that works employing so many hundreds of Chinese, and Chinese too of a turbulent nature (as can be said of practically all labour gangs out here), require more police protection than is at present afforded at Quarry Bay. It is, we believe, the rule at home to strengthen the police considerably in the neighbourhood of such works. For obvious reasons it would be impolitic to arm the watchmen, etc., for that would inevitably lead to more frequent cases of bloodshed. The Government owes employers of labour, engaged in great industrial undertakings adequate protection to enable them to carry out their contracts in a reasonable state of calm. On the other hand, we do not think that the public revenues alone can fairly be drawn upon to provide a considerable increase of the police force rendered necessary by enterprises which are expected to benefit very largely those engaged in them. The duty is a divided one. Fair-minded people would naturally say that the great companies which introduce into parts of Hongkong large bodies of coolies must be prepared to pay something for the extra strain thrown upon the police of the Colony; but the local authorities must too consider that it is the promise of a properly governed and policed Colony which induces firms to undertake the great works which ensure the progress of Hongkong. It is sincerely to be hoped that some understanding, on these lines, will be arrived at in the present case.

(Daily Press, 28th December.)

The Quarry Bay affair which we described in these columns on Tuesday last, adding some details from other sources on the next day, remains as mysterious as ever. We do not profess to be able to say exactly what steps the Police are taking in the matter, nor, were we able, would it be expedient to

reveal what all those steps are. There are, however, one or two points which it seems to us it would be well, in view of the contradictory stories afloat, to clear up; and, moreover, there was yesterday a fresh development of the affair which seems to show that the authorities have neglected an opportunity to get on the track. This was nothing less than the discovery yesterday morning near one of the matsheeds wherein the coolies employed on Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE's work live of the body of a dead Chinaman, with his hands and feet tied. The significance of the hands and feet being so tied is not at present apparent, but the fact of his body being found makes it look possible, if not probable, that he was one of the Chinese engaged in the fatal riot. It was claimed by the coolies after Sunday's affair that some of their number had been killed, but through fear of implicating themselves all traces of dead or wounded Chinese were cleared away. The obvious course would have seemed to be to search the matsheeds with as little delay as possible. This indeed the police were asked to do on Monday; but as only one European policeman, one Indian, and a Chinese were sent down towards evening it was naturally out of the question for this inadequate trio (even with the assistance of Messrs. BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE's Indian watchmen, who were got out, though in a state of terror naturally after Sunday's riot) to perform the extremely dangerous operation of arresting any among some fifteen hundred coolies anxious to put the Police off the scent. On Monday night only four armed policemen, two Europeans and two Indians, were put on duty, urgent requests at length succeeding in bringing two more Indians. We believe that now one European and seven or eight Indians are on duty from evening to about 5.30 a.m. No arrests have been made up to the time of writing, though it is pretty well known that up to Tuesday night or Wednesday morning there were three to five wounded Chinese, at least, in the matsheeds. What was the cause of there being no efficient search made through the matsheeds on the day after the riot is presumably known to the authorities. It hardly seems credible that it was impossible to send down to Quarry Bay a force strong enough to deter the Chinese coolies from hindering those engaged in searching for such as by their wounds, etc., were evidently implicated in the affair, or for dead bodies, if there were any concealed in the matsheeds. It looks now as if nothing but a lucky chance can help the Police to bring the offenders to justice. There has elapsed ample time in which the guilty may obliterate all traces of their guilt. In fact two hundred have left the works. The matter has not been treated with sufficient seriousness, and this is extremely to be regretted on account of the bad precedent which has been given. A mob of coolies has committed a terrible crime, whether there was any original grievance or not, and the authorities have apparently not had the courage to act with the boldness and promptitude which would have given them the required clues. The mob has triumphed, and this seems to us a very dangerous example to have allowed to be set. It is just possible some of the culprits may be brought to punishment ultimately, but the great opportunity of securing them has been irretrievably lost.

The Korean Government, says the *Kobe Herald*, proposes to build a transport cruiser to be used in patrolling the coast and inspecting light houses.

TUNG FU-HSIANG'S MOVEMENTS.

(Daily Press, 23rd December.)

The news which our Shanghai correspondent, telegraphing on Sunday night, describes as conveyed in a "reliable" letter from Shensi, if it be confirmed, must be considered very grave indeed. The statement is that "General TUNG FU-HSIANG is in Kansu, preparing ten thousand well-found troops and buying large quantities of grain and fodder for his soldiers. His intention, it is believed, is to exterminate all foreigners in the provinces of Shensi and Kansu and to seize Hsianfu. A friendly official is advising all foreigners to leave Kansu. The Chinese authorities at Peking appear to be unwilling or powerless to control TUNG FU-HSIANG. Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG is disgusted and earnestly desires to retire." Now it has been reported, from time to time, from various Northern sources, that the exiled General, so constant a cause of alarm to the Chinese ever since his flight after the events of 1909, was quartered at Ninghsia, Kansu province, with a body of troops whose numbers were very variously estimated. A recent number of the *China Times* reports that two Europeans, Messrs. CARVILL and DOUGLAS, who passed through Ninghsia on a journey westward, though they did not find TUNG FU-HSIANG there, heard much about him. He was then reported to be in the hills in the neighbourhood of Pingliang, on the other side of Kansu, about midway between Lanchow and Hsianfu, and to have about 3,000 men with him. The people in the neighbourhood were very uneasy, and the women missionaries had been sent to Shanghai as a precaution. That there should now be women missionaries in so remote and disturbed a province is, we consider, a disgrace to the societies which sent them. Some time ago we expressed a very faint hope that the missionary bodies would consent to learn a lesson from the tragedies of 1900 and would restrain at least the women connected with them from exposing themselves to shocking risks. We also noted, more recently, that our hope was vain. Attention is once more called to the absolutely inexcusable conduct of the societies, who show that it is beyond their ability to learn a lesson of common sense and common humanity. But there is more than the safety of a few Europeans threatened if the report about TUNG proves to be true. The peace of the whole of Central China is menaced, and should such a movement as that announced from Kansu once begin to overrun the neighbouring provinces the elements of disorder existing in them, as in every Chinese province, might rapidly swell the trouble to a size rivalling that of the "Boxer" outbreak of 1900. The unfortunate effect of the Allies' punishment of the Boxers and their Imperial patrons has been to leave China even weaker than before against internal rebellion. The problem of how to strengthen the Chinese Government against its own rebels without at the same time arming it against the Western Powers is perhaps the most difficult that the world's diplomatists have ever had to face.

Russia is devoting some attention to Chinese Turkestan. The *Novosti* says that, in the interests of Russian trade, the Imperial authorities have decided to extend the existing line of telegraph between Kuldja and Irkeshtam to Keshgar. There is every reason for believing that Russia has been engaged busily in the region, as various "scientific expeditions" have explored that outlying portion of the Chinese Empire, which is destined to become sooner or later the connecting link between Peking and Tashkend, in Russian Central Asia.

THE WATER QUESTION.

Daily Press, 24th December.)

The water question promises to continue to attract a very large proportion of the public attention in local affairs, a fact which can cause no surprise seeing the important bearing of the supply of water on the health of the community in an Eastern port like this. The discussion on the subject is not likely to become acute again for the present until the rider-main question comes up for settlement, if indeed the Government is going to take the perilous step of supporting the Chinese proposal. But all matters connected with our water supply must be regarded with a certain amount of interest, and therefore we need not apologise for looking very briefly at the section dealing with it in Mr. CHATHAM's belated Public Works Report for 1901, laid before the Legislative Council yesterday. The Water Authority treats of what is rather ancient history by now, but as he summarises the facts we may follow him. The timely advent of the rains in the early part of 1901, he points out, rendered it unnecessary to introduce the intermittent system in the early months. It had been arranged to curtail the supply and by an accident this was actually done for two days, beginning on the 7th April. Then the rains came down and the intermittent system was not found necessary. The period May-September, however, which is regarded as constituting the wet season, showed the lowest rainfall on record, amounting to only 39.91 inches, as compared with the average for the corresponding months of the past seventeen years of 65.42 inches. The year's total rainfall was the second lowest on record, being only 55.78 inches as compared with the seventeen previous years' average of 85.10 inches. Tylam and Woungcheihong reservoirs never filled during the year. On the 11th September the contents of all the reservoirs amounted to 390,000,000 gallons, about 120,000,000 gallons below their full capacity. In consequence, two months from this date recourse was had to the intermittent system, the supply to the main portions of the City being four hours daily; these hours were further curtailed in parts where it was necessary to serve a limited number of houses at a time, to ensure all of them obtaining a supply as far as possible. At the end of 1901 the intermittent system had been in force for fifty-one days, the quantity then in the reservoirs amounting to 146,000,000 gallons only. The average consumption of filtered water per day, Mr. CHATHAM shows, was 3,525,000 gallons—figures which demonstrate how little Hongkong was prepared for another year in succession of deficient rainfall. Turning now to the latest Water Return, showing the quantity in hand on the 1st December, we find a total of 332,571,000, after one month of two hours' supply daily. The consumption per head of population in Victoria and the Hill district last month was 10.4 gallons a day for an estimated population of 216,400. It is plain that we shall, even with the strictest continuance of our present curtailed supply, be poorly prepared on the 1st January to face another such year of scarcity as this has been. Yet it is for years of scarcity that we must be prepared, not for years of plenty, when even our out-of-date reservoir capacity may serve a little longer an ever-growing population, the large majority of which is absolutely untaught that waste of water is, in the circumstances of Hongkong, a crime against the com-

munity. But the advocates of the rider-main system still hold that it will be right to punish the innocent with the guilty and condemn Hongkong to years more of intermittent supply.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 23rd inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MEY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, K.T. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Commander R. S. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Dr. F. W. CLARK (Medical Officer of Health).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Hon. R. SHENWAN.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Acting Clerk of Council).

PUBLIC WORKS IN 1901.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Director of Public Works for 1901.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS BILL.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Council resolved itself into Committee on the Public Health and Buildings Bill.

The Council proceeded to consider in detail the schedules of the Bill.

In Schedule B under the heading "Importation and Inspection of Animals," it was provided that no animals (cattle, sheep, swine, or goats) be landed at any wharf at Kowloon except the police wharf at Yaumati.

Hon. C. S. SHARP pointed out that supposing he were to get a cargo of cattle up from Australia, he would not be able to take the steamer alongside the police wharf at Yaumati. It should be permissible to land cattle at more convenient wharves.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said they did not take the steamer alongside the pier. The cattle were taken off by means of smaller boats.

Hon. Mr. SHARP—Yes; but why not let them walk ashore from the steamer berthed at a wharf?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH remarked that this had been the law for the last seven years. Yaumati wharf was out of the way of the traffic. If cattle were landed anywhere else there might be trouble.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR pointed out that the Sanitary Board could effect an alteration of the restriction by recommending it to the Government. He thought the bye-law should be allowed to stand. It had worked very well in the past.

Under the bye-laws for the "Prevention or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic or Contagious Disease," it was provided that the Sanitary Board may recover the cost of cleaning and disinfecting from the householder, and compensation may be given to such householder for any bedding or other articles which have been destroyed during such cleansing and disinfection.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI proposed that "compensation may be given" be altered to "compensation shall be given," with a view to encourage the Chinese to report the presence of disease.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR thought that as it did not cost much this compensation should be paid in order to get the Chinese to report cases.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that every suggestion that had been offered as to how to get the Chinese to report had been acted upon in the past without much result.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI replied that during the plague epidemics and especially in 1894, they had simply been frightened by the destruction of property which householders were subjected

to under the process of disinfection. There was a lot of cases of property being thrown out of houses and destroyed or misappropriated and no compensation made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he could not accept that; he remembered only two or three claims for loss of property and he did not remember any complaints about want of compensation in subsequent epidemics.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that if they put in the word "shall" they would be compelled to pay compensation, as an instance, for the most dirty, germ-laden bedding. In the Bill as it presently stood they had power to give compensation in reasonable cases.

Hon. Mr. PLAYFAIR suggested that the provision might be altered to read "shall pay compensation in every reasonable case."

This last suggestion was not accepted, however. On a division being taken on Dr. HO KAI's amendment it was defeated by 6 votes to 5, the members voting as follows:—For the amendment—Hon. Messrs. Playfair, Sharp, Wei A Yuk, Dr. HO KAI, and the Harbour Master; against—The Medical Officer of Health, the Director of Public Works, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Treasurer, the Colonial Secretary, and General Gascoigne.

The original reading of the provision was approved.

In the same connection, some discussion took place on section 89 of the Bill, which was to the following effect:—"The Board shall have power by its officers to enter and to cleanse and disinfect any premises where any person suffering from bubonic plague, cholera or small-pox or any other contagious or infectious disease is or has been recently located and the Board may recover the cost of such cleansing and disinfection from the householder and compensation may be given to such householder for any bedding, clothing or other articles which have been destroyed during such cleansing and disinfection."

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL it was agreed to add at the end of the section these words: "Provided that where a case of infection has been duly reported no charge shall be made for the cost of cleansing and disinfection."

Hon. Dr. HO KAI moved that, after these words, there be added: "and reasonable compensation for property destroyed or damaged shall in such cases be given."

This also was agreed to, and the section as amended was passed.

When the reading of the schedules had been completed, the Committee proceeded to deal with those clauses which had been left over for further consideration or to be re-cast.

In Section 6, sub-section 2, the definition of "animal" was struck out, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL explaining that wherever necessary the names of the animals referred to had been specifically given.

To the definition clauses a clause was added defining "cement" as meaning Portland cement.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I suppose that is to be taken in a general sense?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Yes, Portland cement is a word of art, like plaster of Paris.

The following definition of a cubicle was proposed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL:—"Cubicle means any room partitioned off for the purpose of being used as a sleeping-place."

The HARBOUR MASTER supposed a case where a room was partitioned off for some other purpose and was then used as a sleeping-place.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR said that in that case it would have been partitioned off for the purpose of a sleeping-place as soon as it was used as a sleeping-place.

The definition was approved.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the following definition of a room:—"Room includes any sub-division of any story of a domestic building other than a room used as a drying-room, store-room or pantry." In this definition he had endeavoured to meet the fair criticism that had been passed upon the clause which prohibited certain rooms except of certain dimensions.

This definition was also approved.

The Council adjourned at one o'clock and resumed at three.

The second proviso to section 46 (Overcrowding) was altered to read as follows:—"Any cubicle in any existing domestic building

They turned upon him furiously, and beat in his skull with stones. When found some time later, the poor old fellow was in a kneeling position, his head showing a terrible wound on the right side, inclining between his knees. He was quite dead, and the body was taken care of by the police. Seven other watchmen, as has already been stated, were more or less seriously injured. The fullest investigations are being made, but so far no arrests have been effected.—*Daily Press*, 25th December.

On Friday morning the dead body of a Chinaman, bound hand and foot, was found outside one of the matcheds at Quarry Bay.

The following statement has been made by the Indian watchman who stopped the Chinese girl carrying a bundle of wood which he supposed she had stolen from the shipyard:—

"About half-past five p.m. I was stationed at the soap work's end of this work on the road, saw a woman stealing wood, and I wanted to stop the woman taking it away, but she would not give the wood up to me, and I snatched at, and tried to take the wood away, when a Chinaman struck me on the head. I then ran off for assistance, when a whole gang ran after me and commenced throwing stones at me; on the way I was met by another gang who also began throwing stones, and tried to beat me with sticks. When I got to the matched, a large number of coolies, I don't know how many, but many more than we were, began to go for us with sticks and stones. We tried to defend ourselves. I cannot say more than this."

The watchman's statement is borne out, it is said, by a number of other watchmen on duty at the time of the trouble, the only difference in any of the stories being that some say that there were three Chinese taking away wood, one woman and two girls. Two, according to this version, put down the wood they had at once, but the third would not do so.

The seven watchmen who were wounded by the Chinese are still in the same condition, one in a very precarious state.—*Daily Press*, 27th December.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

Although a general holiday, Christmas Day passed off very quietly in the Colony. Everywhere, however, there were the usual decorative indications of the season of the year on shore, in the floral embellishment of the hotels and other places of concourse, and, in the harbour, in the tufts of greenery fastened to the mast-heads of the several warships. The weather was rather unsettled, and made outdoor celebrations precarious, but as most of the functions peculiar to and inseparable from Christmas took place under the friendly shelter of roofs, the unfavourable atmospheric conditions did not make themselves appreciably felt. In the afternoon, at Happy Valley, a holiday match was played between a team of the Hongkong Football Club and one from H.M.S. *Goliath*, under lugly rules, and ended in a win for the Club; the attendance was not very good. In the Garrison, dinners and teas, followed later by "smokers" and dances, formed pleasant feature of the day, and affoat similar festivities were indulged in by the sailors. Services were held in the cathedrals and churches, and in every instance were well attended. Friday, Boxing Day, was also a holiday for many people.

CONCERT TO HOSPITAL PATIENTS.

On Thursday afternoon a most enjoyable Christmas concert was given to the patients in the Government Civil Hospital by Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer. H.E. the Governor, Lady Blake and Miss Blake were present, and so also were Lady Gascoigne, Commodore and Mrs. Robinson, and Lady Goodman. The programme was divided into two parts, and comprised thirteen numbers, all of which were capitally rendered and evoked much applause. The concert opened with a pianoforte duet by Messrs. Grimble and Ward, a combination of names and musical talent which makes further comment superfluous. Mr. G. Balloch gave two songs, and as an encore "Lizzie Lindsay." In "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "When the Heart is Young" Mrs. Mudie awakened old memories, and made an impression which her reputation as a songs'ress fully merited. Mrs. Badeley also was successful in her rendering of "Who'll

Buy my Lavender" and "A Life Lesson." Mr. C. H. P. Hay has made a sterling name locally by his appearances on various concert platforms, and in "The King's Minstrel" and "The Countryman"—the last named a tuneful melody composed by Mr. A. G. Ward and reminiscent of the fifteenth century—he enhanced that name. A nicely executed pianoforte duet by Misses Eyre and Pitts opened the second part of the programme, which was brought to a close by a sleight-of-hand performance by Mr. L. H. Brauson, 10th Bombay Light Infantry, whose card tricks are quite the smartest we have seen any amateur perform. Mr. A. G. Ward officiated as accompanist. After the concert Lady Blake distributed to the patients gifts from the Christmas tree.

THEATRE ROYAL.

A tangled skein of complications had to be unravelled in the farcical comedy *Facing the Music*, produced by Miss Waldorf's Company at the Theatre Royal on the 14th inst. We like the Waldorf company in comedy; they never fail to appeal to the risible faculties. They did this last night, most convincingly, despite the difficulties that "first night" invariably opens up. The audience was keenly alive to the humour of the situations developing on the other side of the footlights, and when the curtain rang down the flattering comments heard on all sides marked another success for Miss Waldorf's popular company. Mr. Norval McGregor depicted the adventures of *John Smith*, "the other Smith," whose misfortunes commenced from the moment of his adventure in the fog, and his presentment was a capital one, an unmistakable dash of individuality imparting additional flavour to a character which suited him perhaps even better than the *Boris* in *The Lady of Ostend*—and that is saying a good deal. Theatre-goers here are sufficiently well acquainted with the acting of Mr. Wilson Forbes to know that he generally manages to impress his audience with his capabilities. He took the part of the *Rev. John Smith*, and it suited him as excellently as he suited it; he was just the man for the role. As *Mabel*, the curate's wife, Miss Janet Waldorf had more scope perhaps than in any other comedy produced during the present season at the Theatre Royal. Miss Waldorf's forte, however, is tragedy, as witness, for instance, her *Josephine* in *A Royal Divorce*, but though she is always to be preferred in such roles, there was in that of *Mabel* a sufficient element of mock tragedy to make the part a very suitable and assuredly a most pleasing one. Mr. William Fitchett, energetic and painstaking as ever, was not hampered by any limitations in the character he assumed, that of *Dick Desmond*; and he impressed his audience with his ability as an exponent of the histrionic art. Miss Mildred Yorke was pleasing as Miss *Fotheringay* of the Bijou Theatre, and so, too, was Miss Amy Stanley in the much more difficult part of *Nora*, the wife of *John Smith*. The other characters were likewise ably portrayed, and were—*Col. Duncan Smith* (Mr. St. Clair Bayfield), *Sergeant Duffell* (Mr. Jean de Lacey), and *Mrs. Ponting* (Miss Edith Hays).

The members of Miss Janet Waldorf's Dramatic Company returned to Hongkong early on Christmas morning. They appeared on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Canton Club Theatre on the Shamoon, and on each occasion the house was crowded. The pieces selected were *The Lady of Ostend* and *Turned Up*, the desire having been generally expressed that the Company should appear in comedies. The trip provided a great deal of interest to the Company, who greatly admired the sights of the city. They devoted the whole day on Wednesday to sight-seeing and visited most of the places of peculiar interest in Canton.

On Friday (Boxing night) the season here was resumed by the production of the farcical comedy *Turned Up*. This piece was appropriately selected for a holiday night, and proved a very merry entertainment indeed. Whatever the merits of this comedy may be, the fact must be conceded that the situations are exceedingly comical. It is much bolder built than any other of the farcical comedies in the company's repertoire, but it is so cleverly constructed that

one has no time to consider the probabilities of the positions the characters find themselves in. Nor would it be wise to attempt to describe a plot the fluctuations of which become so involved. It is a delightful absurdity, brimful of sparkling "lines" and springing new surprises at every turn. Mr. Norval McGregor again proved himself a comedian of the first rank, while Miss Janet Waldorf played with her usual grace. With such accomplished artists as Miss Dow-Currier and Mr. Wilson Forbes in prominent roles the action of the piece could not flag for a moment.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 20th December.

THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

The rebellion in Kwangsi is very serious. The rebels, said to amount to forty to fifty thousand in number, have taken possession of many districts and towns, and Pak Ngai, Pak Shek, Sishing, Siyan, Hing Yip, and Lau Chow are in their occupation. They are now marching into Yunnan, armed with modern rifles. The names of their chiefs are Chan and Luk. The officials here are enlisting soldiers.

THE NEW MINISTER TO THE U.S.

The new Ambassador to the United States, Japan, and Peru is Mr. Leung Shing, otherwise known as Lien Chantung, a native of Pun Yu. He will call at Hongkong by the gunboat *Fong Hoi*, and then proceed to Canton, to make official calls upon the high officials, after which he will go to his native place for some time, and will then proceed on his embassy.

AN ARSENAL IN KWANGSI.

So Yün Chow, the military commander-in-chief in the province of Kwangsi, obtained permission from the Imperial Government to establish an arsenal there for the making of ammunition, and also a mint for coining dollars at Lungchow. A large quantity of machinery and numbers of workmen were sent from Canton. Arms are being manufactured, but the mint has stopped work and some workmen have returned to Canton.

AN OFFICIAL MONOPOLY.

With regard to the tax which is to be imposed upon the unfortunate girls on shore as well as in the flower-boats; it is now said that the officials have entertained a favourable view of it, and it will soon be an accomplished fact. Instead of giving the monopoly to Cheung Ching In and others who have applied for it, the officials are going to take it, so as to prevent the kidnapping or ill-treatment of these girls.

PIRATES.

As usual just about the end of the year piracy on the Canton river is bolder and fiercer than ever. The military commander cannot find means to check it; so the gentry of the East river have recommended to him one Chan Chi-yeung as a man well suited to the task of catching pirates, and one who knows where to find them. He is to take command of two cruisers, with forty braves on each, and is to give double pay to the men as a stimulant for them to catch pirates.

A CHARACTER.

Li-chou, the Admiral on the Canton river, is a little eccentric. Living in the Hoi Chü fort, he has bought in Hongkong over a thousand dollars' worth of photographic apparatus, and is now taking views every day. He is fond of taking photos of his soldiers in various attitudes; one day he called out for some soldiers to come and be "shot," but got no answer. He walked quietly outside the door of the barracks with a carrying-pole and found the men gambling. Flourishing his pole he set about belabouring them himself and sent them flying.

COAL-MINING.

There is a coal-mine in the hill of Ngao Keng in the district of Lungmun, Kwangtung, which produces pretty good coal, and a company, under the name of Yu Chennng, has been formed by permission of the Viceroy to work at it. Liberty is given to the natives of that locality to dig for the coals, but whatever quantity they have taken they must first offer to the Company, which is then to fix the price and pay them—an economical arrangement.

TOKYO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 15th December.

JAPAN'S NAVAL EXPANSION.

In the Japanese House of Representatives on Saturday, December 13th, Mr. Shō Nemoto, a member of Marquis Ito's party, asked if the naval expansion scheme was an outcome of the Anglo-Japanese agreement, and whether Japan was bound by that agreement, to increase her navy? The Premier responded that Japan was not bound by the agreement with England to increase her fleet. Mr. Taguchi, an independent member, expressed his surprise at the fact that neither the Premier nor the Minister of Finance had offered any explanation of the necessity of the naval expansion programme. The Premier, said Mr. Taguchi, had just referred to the increase of friendly relations between Japan and the Western Powers. Was this increase of friendly relations the reason why the fleet should be strengthened? Baron Yamamoto, the Minister of the Navy, replied that he had intended to reserve explanation on those matters till the Committee meetings, but that since Mr. Taguchi had challenged him to give an explanation he would give one. The reason therefore why the Government had decided to begin another expansion programme on the eve of the completion of the present ten-year programme, was because the trend of affairs in the Far East and even the present state of things there demanded it.

Mr. Taguchi asked for a more definite explanation, but Baron Yamamoto refused to be drawn. He promised, however, to refer to the matter on a future occasion.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 17th December.

THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET.

A small squadron of American warships arrived here late last night. The U.S. fleet under command of Rear-Admiral R. D. Evans is assembling now and in about two weeks' time will begin some extensive manoeuvres between this port and the comparatively new naval station at Olangapo, in Subig Bay. All the American ships on the Asiatic station, it is believed, will take part in these great naval drills in the waters of Western Luzon. The manoeuvres are to begin in the first week of January and with some of the ships will possibly continue for the entire month. After that most of the U.S. fleet will accompany the flagship *Kentucky* on a trip to Batavia, Singapore, and Saigon. A port in Cochin-China will be visited by the fleet, when a chance will be offered to some of the officers to visit the Hanoi Exposition. Probably the bulk of the ships, with Admiral Evans, will proceed to Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, and other Indian ports. I notice that in one of the American papers, a correspondent, writing of the U.S.S. *Yorktown*, which has been in the Philippines for more than four years, says: "I sincerely hope that the *Yorktown* will be one of the first ships ordered home. It certainly is the *Yorktown's* due. This ship needs, most decidedly, to be put out of commission, and to have a new battery and new boilers. One boiler at present is cracked all the way across, and the gun carriages, very old fashioned, are almost dangerous to handle. In fact, one or two have been carried away during target practice and severe injuries to the gun's crews were only averted by the merest luck. There will be some serious losses unless this ship is soon put out of commission." The *Yorktown* was one of the flotilla which just visited us.

TROUBLE IN MINDANAO.

The Moros are still on the warpath in Mindanao, and news of an exciting character may be expected from that quarter shortly.

A SMALL MISHAP.

The other day an U.S. transport, carrying General Miles and party, ran on to a coral-reef at Lagaspi, near Manila, and remained fast for seven hours. She got off undamaged, however.

NORTHERN NOTES.

We take the following items from *P. & T. Times* of the 6th inst.:

The Sibirian route is clearly becoming popular in Tientsin for mails. On Tuesday night there was quite a rush of work at the French post office on the Bund between 4 and 5 p.m. The officials are embodied courtesy in making matters plain; and there is one soldier, who though self-taught, speaks capital English.

Viceroy Chang has censured Sheng Tai-tai or twelve things, says the *Jih Jih*. There is a story current that Sheng declined a requested loan to Chang when he was leaving Hupeh, and that this has made an enemy of the Viceroy.

We hear from authoritative but not official sources that Mr. J. L. Scott, the Chairman of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, and Dr. Robertson of Tientsin are to be the other two members of the Committee of the China shareholders re the C. E. and M. Co. investigation.

Prince Ching will most probably visit Japan for the Exhibition next year. He is too old to venture on a long journey, but thinks he can manage the short sea trip to Japan.

The repairing of the North Gate of Peking, which was destroyed by the Allies, has now been completed and traffic has been resumed through it.

Never since the port has been opened have building operations been so general in December. The bricklayers and plasterers are all working at top speed, and incipient frost is apparently a forgotten quantity. A score of houses are well beyond the stage that the contractors ever thought they would reach this year.

The great success of the Peking Industrial Institute has led to the Government giving instructions for similar institutes to be established in connection with all primary schools.

More machinery has arrived for the Tientsin Mint, and it is expected that the coinage of copper cent pieces will be started very shortly.

According to *L'Impartial*, the China Merchants S. N. Co. has not made such profits as was expected, and there is some talk of introducing foreign capital. The proposal is now before the Government, but no decision has yet been arrived at.

Gen. Chiang's troops in Peking, which have been charged with the special duty of the suppressing of robbery and brigandage, have made but little progress on these lines. This is hardly strange, perhaps, when we hear that many of the robberies are committed by "men in uniform."

An Indian deserter has been sent back to Peking from Kalgan, where he has been for some months indulging in a little high life, which has resulted in an accumulation of various costly garments, trinkets and ponies.

The *China Times* regrets to hear of the death of M. André Pierre Ricard, student-intpreter at the French Consulate, which took place at Tientsin on 7th inst. at the French Hospital General. M. Ricard was 23 years of age, and had only been in China a few months. He was a pleasant and very promising young Frenchman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

DR. THOMSON ON MOSQUITOES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 19th December, 1902.

SIR,—I am much indebted to your correspondent "B" for his courteous letter in your issue of this morning, including an extract from a paper on yellow fever by the Surgeon-General of the U.S. Army, who is entitled to speak with authority on this subject.

1. It corrects an erroneous impression left by one of the speakers at the Odd Volumes conversation, to which I had no opportunity of reply on account of the lateness of the hour. My statement regarding the possibility of yellow fever reaching Hongkong through the direct shipping communication about to be established with an endemic region was described as "alarmist," on the ground of a belief that it only pre-

vails within ten degrees of the Equator. Surgeon-General Sternberg's statement of its geographical distribution is evidence that it may be epidemic and endemic forty degrees from the Equator; and as a matter of fact Hongkong is in exactly the same latitude as Mexico and Cuba, where it is continuously endemic.

2. Surgeon-General Sternberg in the past has quoted is curiously inconsistent. After showing that it has been carried to such places as Spain and Portugal, and the West Coast of Africa, and has there frequently been epidemic, he proceeds to argue on theoretical considerations that it is unlikely to be carried by shipping to distant seaports. His geography may be translated into the general statement that yellow fever has in the past been landed practically in every locality having direct shipping communication with the endemic area, i.e., up and down the coasts of America and across the Atlantic. He does not mention, but it is the fact, that cases have been landed in both France and England, not very much nearer to central America than Hongkong. That it has not spread in the climatic and hygienic conditions existing in Europe does not touch the question; the point is, that yellow fever has been frequently landed in different European countries by ships carrying it from the West Indies and Central America.

3. Surgeon-General Sternberg's article states that "the mosquito which serves as an intermediate host for the yellow fever germ has a somewhat restricted geographical range." Here, however, in Hongkong there is no more common mosquito than the black-and-white "tiger" mosquito, *Stegomyia scutellaris*, as closely related to the *Stegomyia fasciata* to which yellow fever has been traced in Cuba, as are the various species of anopheles, which indifferently transmit malaria, to each other. And, as I said in my lecture, I find that its habits correspond in every detail with those of the Cuban variety.

4. The grounds on which I have been accused of being "alarmist," viz., the latitude of Hongkong and its distance from Mexico, both fall before the facts. "Facts are stubborn things," and the facts are with me in my assertion that there is grave danger to this Colony in the opening of direct steam communication with a country in which yellow fever is endemic. I do not wish to be "alarmist"; and I do not pose as a prophet. It may be that no case of yellow fever will ever reach Hongkong; it may be that the large well-equipped sanitary staff now existing would stamp it out forthwith, even if it did appear among us. But two facts are undoubted, viz. (1) that all experience is in favour of our having ere long to deal with yellow fever under the new conditions about to be established, and (2) that *Stegomyia*, the transmitter of yellow fever, abounds in Hongkong.

5. But, Mr. Editor, while opinion as to the bearing of the facts I have referred to may be divided, I hope that side issues will not be allowed to turn public attention from the main subject, as so frequently happens in other matters. After eliminating every point that may be disputed, there is in the presence in this Colony of malaria and the filarial diseases, sufficiency of solid argument to justify all the vigorous measures I have advocated against the whole family of mosquitoes; and I take this opportunity of re-emphasising the fact that much as the Government may be doing, and may be willing to do, it ultimately depends on an enlightened public opinion to carry this matter through to its ultimate issues, and reduce mosquitoes in this Colony to a minimum.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN C. THOMSON.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 23rd December.

With reference to the following paragraph written by the Editor of the *China Mail* in Monday's issue: "The majority of the Chamber's Committee do not see how the gold standard can be introduced here unless China 'gives gold'—do the majority look on the question in this light? and is it the old argument that Hongkong cannot go on a gold basis because it is too near 'silver-using China'?" That argument is surely absurd as comparing

Hongkong with (say) Singapore. What difference can it possibly make as regards the currency whether the distance between Hongkong and some of the principal ports of China, and Singapore and the principal ports of China is three days or eight or nine days?

The Malay States are simply producers, and if the Straits Settlements surrounded by these and other great producing districts (Borneo, &c.) can go on a gold basis, surely we, who are importers not producers and are merely the half-way house between London and India and China, can make the change much more easily, as there is scarcely a single import that is not sold on a gold basis. If the Straits Settlements can do it, we can, and if the Singapore Currency Commission finally decide in favour of a gold currency it is hardly necessary to apply for a Commission to investigate the question here. In the event of Singapore deciding to "go gold" what we have to do is to follow suit and call for experts' opinion for Hongkong only when the Straits have the proposed change to gold decided against them.—Yours, etc.,

CURRENCY.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 26th December.

SIR,—As a graphic illustration of one of the many distressing phases which will largely obtain under the Street Hydrant Supply System, I would ask you to afford me a little space to print a word picture.

Christmas Night.

Time—Long after midnight. Very dark.
Weather—Cold with an atmosphere damp and raw. Sky overcast. A little rain falling.

Returning from midnight mass, at many of the street corners and places where the hydrant supply taps are situated, numbers of the very poor, underclad, and in many cases ragged people of both sexes, could be seen, who, at 1.30 a.m., had taken up their stations, huddled together as close to the taps as possible, there to remain in the cold and rain to wait four or five hours for the water to be turned on from the mains. Can you imagine, Mr. Editor, what it must be like sitting on the stones for four or five hours, the weary hours after midnight, in the hopes of catching or obtaining a small canfull of water worth to most of us white people not more than a single cash, and even not so much?

If any of your readers have any sympathy and would like to verify the description here given, they have only to visit the thickly populated quarters of this City of Victoria during the small hours after midnight and they can learn the truth for themselves. Somewhat similar conditions will also be found along the many rocky watercourses which pass under the aqueduct, Bowen Road. Throughout the whole distance from the Tram Station to the Wanchai Gap Road hundreds of our fellow-creatures of both sexes and all ages are compelled to make almost superhuman efforts to obtain a small canfull of water, such as it is, to save life! This is the truth.

There was, I think, if I read rightly, a matter lately brought before the Sanitary Board, relative to an application for permission to put in a "water-closet service" in a new house nearing completion. Under the existing circumstances, pictured above, and the immediate state of our water supply, I would humbly beg of the Water Authority that consideration first be given to the sad condition of the very poor, who are scarcely able to get sufficient water for their living needs, before any permission is granted which in the near future, might form a dangerous precedent.—Yours, etc.,

SPECTATOR.

PEAK LIGHTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 26th December, 1902.

SIR,—Considering the enormous increase of houses at the Peak, and it may be added, the increased frequency of dark, foggy evenings during recent years, has not the time fully come for our urging on the authorities the lighting of the more frequented parts? At present, unless carrying a light, many of us have no small

difficulty in finding our way home, to say nothing of the facility for highway robbery afforded by the darkness.—Yours, etc.,

PEAKITE.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the Company's Registered Offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on the 30th December, at three o'clock.

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1902.

The net profits for the twelve months, after paying charges and all running expenses and making provision for auditors' fees, amount to

\$32,052.80

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account

3,870.42

\$41,923.22

And from this has to be deducted remuneration to general managers (5 per cent. on gross earnings) ...

4,291.84

Leaving available for appropriation \$37,630.38

Your general managers and consulting committee recommend that a dividend of \$18 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$22,500; that \$5,000 be written off rolling stock and \$1,240.25 off stations and shelters; that \$5,000 be transferred to permanent reserve and the balance, viz., \$3,890.13, be carried to new profit and loss account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with Rule 15 of the Company's Articles of Association, the present members, Mr. C. Ewens, the Hon. C. W. Dickson, and Mr. J. Orange retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. Fullerton Henderson from the Colony, the accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts and Mr. A. R. Lowe. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Potts offer themselves for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 20th December, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET

For the year ending 30th November, 1902.

| LIABILITIES. | | \$ c. |
|---|------------|-------|
| Capital account: 1,200 shares of £100 each | | |
| fully paid up | 125,000.00 | |
| Permanent reserve fund | 2,340.00 | |
| Unclaimed dividends | 347.00 | |
| Local and general liabilities | 3,951.85 | |
| Profit and loss: brought forward \$3,870.42 | | |
| Profit and loss: for current year 38,052.80 | | |
| | 41,923.22 | |

\$191,215.07

ASSETS.

| ASSETS. | | \$ c. |
|---|-------------|-------|
| Permanent way, concession and deed of grant | 125,000.00 | |
| Stations, Crown leaseholds, and buildings (Inland lots 1,317, 1,332, 1,333, 1,334, 1,335, 1,353 and R. B. lot 86) | 12,240.25 | |
| Rolling stock | 35,410.89 | |
| Furniture account | 125.00 | |
| Coals and stores in hand | 726.40 | |
| Accounts receivable | 1,489.86 | |
| Cash in H. and S. Bank | \$14,235.93 | |
| Cash and compradores' orders in hand | 1,986.69 | |
| | 16,222.67 | |

\$191,215.07

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

| Dr. | | \$ c. |
|--|-------------|-------|
| To salaries and wages | 19,280.86 | |
| To charges | 3,027.62 | |
| To maintenance and repairs | 10,509.83 | |
| To coals and stores | 9,479.28 | |
| To interest | 24.09 | |
| To rates, Crown rent, and fire insurance | 1,024.01 | |
| To godown and station rent | \$21,000.00 | |
| Less sundry rents received | 640.66 | |
| | 1,119.34 | |
| To office rent and clerks' salaries, &c. | 3,000.00 | |
| To balance | 41,923.22 | |

\$89,728.30

Cr.

| | |
|--|----------|
| By amount brought forward from last year | 3,870.42 |
| By transfer fees | 1.00 |
| By traffic receipts for the year to date | 85,856.8 |

\$89,728.30

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 19th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE ALLEGED BOAT ROBBERY.

The hearing was resumed of the charge against Kwok Shing of being concerned in a boat robbery at Causeway Bay.

On the previous day the case had been adjourned to allow for the attendance of one of two Chinese constables, who, the prisoner alleged, had ill-treated him at Tsimshatsui Police Station in order to make him confess about the robbery. One of these constables had been examined previously, and had deposed that there was no truth in the prisoner's allegations.

The second constable when put in the box also emphatically denied the truth of the charges made against them by the prisoner. He admitted that he took the prisoner out of his cell and interrogated him about the robbery. No constable had the right to go into a prisoner's cell and talk to him, but on this occasion special instructions had been given to him by Sergeant Sullivan. During witness's twelve years' experience in the police he had never seen a man ill-treated to make him confess.

His Lordship in summing up commended the jury for their anxiety to sift to the bottom the charges of ill-treatment brought against the police by the prisoner. It seemed to him highly improbable that the prisoner had been treated in the manner described, considering the stringency of the police regulations. There was no evidence to show that the prisoner's statement was true. If there had been any evidence to show that the prisoner's confession had been made under the compulsion of ill-treatment, his Lordship would certainly not have allowed that statement to go before the jury as evidence, and as Chief Justice of the Colony he would have been ashamed of the police.

The jury, after twenty minutes' consideration, found the prisoner not guilty by a majority of six to one.

His Lordship—I would like to ask you this question, gentlemen. Do you believe the prisoner's statement that he was beaten and that a sword was put across his neck?

The Foreman (Mr. Mitchell)—We are quite satisfied, your Lordship, that nothing of the sort happened to the prisoner.

Prisoner was discharged.

His Lordship (addressing Mr. P. P. J. Wodchouse, Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Police) said he wished to point out that there was no right on the part of the police, after a man had been taken into custody and put into a cell, to cross-examine him or endeavour to make him make a statement. His Lordship could not in this case understand why these Chinese policemen were allowed to take the man out of his cell and interrogate him; he hoped that would be investigated and the person responsible severely reprimanded. There was no right whatever to take a man out of a cell and ask him a series of questions though it was quite permissible to ask him questions before he was taken into custody. This case showed the great disadvantage of keeping a man five days before bringing him before the Magistrate, because no doubt the jury had come to the conclusion that the man was asked a great many questions and that a certain amount of pressure had been brought to bear upon him, and therefore had given him the benefit of the doubt.

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

Tam Kit and U Cheung, building contractors, were empanelled on a charge of causing the death of a boy named Wong Chun in connection with the Second Street collapse on 2nd August.

They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor); the prosecution was conducted by the Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor.)

The following jury was empanelled;—W. Domnich, H. Varrelmann, W. M. Deas, D. Currie, T. Galbraith, E. Gibson and G. W. Buider.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, stated that the prisoners were charged with technical manslaughter—the unlawful taking of life or causing of death without *malice prepense*. They were charged with causing the death of a boy, one of four persons killed by the collapse of a house at 10, Second Street. The Crown held that they were liable under that charge because, being contractors for the purpose of erecting a certain building, they so negligently performed the duty cast upon them under the contract of properly erecting the building that the building fell and by its fall killed the four persons he had mentioned. He put it to the jury that if they should find that the defendants as contractors so negligently performed the work of building the house and in consequence of that neglect the house fell and caused the death of another person then the contractors were answerable in that Court and should be found guilty. Where the law cast a personal duty upon one—as in this case upon the contractor to superintend the work he undertook to perform—and where that personal duty, as in this case, was not performed or was so negligently performed that it resulted in the death of one of the King's subjects, that constituted manslaughter. The Crown would, he believed, be able to show to the satisfaction of the jury that the prisoners were contractors to build an additional storey on the house No. 10, Second Street, that they contented themselves simply with engaging an architect to draw a plan and that the architect was not engaged to and did not perform any supervision over the erection. The architect never went near the place, not being employed to do so. The contractors themselves did not do so either but left the building to be slapped up by the ordinary Chinese jerry bricklayers. He believed he would be able to satisfy the jury that this house fell through inherent bad work, and after it had stood for some 18 months, during what an expert who was called described as a fresh gale. If they were satisfied that there was carelessness from the first in not employing an architect to do all an architect should do, that that carelessness was accentuated by the omission of the contractors to give personal superintendence to the work as it was being performed, that the house itself was improperly constructed, and should come to the conclusion that the house fell in consequence of these, they must find the prisoners guilty of manslaughter. They were about to add a storey to an old blue-brick building, 30 years' old. That was sufficient to make a careful contractor still more careful. In this case too the Public Works Department, which was generally used as the proverbial red herring to draw across the trail, could not be used, happily, for this reason, that this house that had to be erected did not come within the section which required a certificate from the Public Works Department before occupation. The responsibility rested entirely upon the contractors and the architect in a more or less degree; in this case, however, they had nothing to do with the architect. He would show that the materials used were inferior and that the construction was faulty. The Attorney-General went on to say that he proposed to put in, in evidence, the depositions of the prisoners made at the Coroner's enquiry. He understood that objection would be taken by the defence on the ground that such depositions made on oath were not admissible; but that point was decisively settled in the affirmative in 1873 in a case on appeal to the Privy Council from the Supreme Court of Canada, *Queen v. Edward Coote* (4th vol. of *Law Reports, Privy Council Cases*, p. 599). In that case the respondent was indicted for arson. On his trial it was proposed to put in evidence the depositions sworn by him before the Fire Commissioner. The Court held that they were not admissible, the chief ground being that the depositions were not voluntary inasmuch as he had been compelled to make them on oath. The Privy Council, on appeal, held that they were admissible. The application of that case to the present case, was, the Attorney-General submitted, exact.

Mr. Slade said that he had misread that case in looking very hurriedly through the records.

His Lordship—It is very conclusive.

Mr. Slade—Yes, your Lordship. I do not propose to proceed with the objection.

Evidence was then taken.

The witnesses, who had all been previously examined at the Coroner's enquiry, included Dr. Hunter, Acting Police Inspector Dymond, Messrs. H. P. Tooker, P. T. Crisp and H. E. Y. Haggard of the Public Works Department, and Mr. F. T. B. Howett.

Mr. Slade, in opening the case for the defence, said that the position of matters was that this house had collapsed, somebody had been killed, and somebody had to be held responsible. If the jury should hold the contractors criminally liable they must find them guilty of manslaughter. If a man was culpably and grossly negligent in doing something or in omitting to do something he should have done he was criminally liable but unless he personally was proved to be guilty of some gross negligence he would not be criminally liable.

His Lordship, interposing, said there were some things for which, if a man undertook to do them and they were badly done by some underling, he could not escape responsibility. If a man undertook to build a house for another man—a house for human habitation—and that other man paid him for doing so and trusted him to do it properly, then there was an implied duty upon him to bring reasonable skill and diligence and use reasonable materials for his work, and if, by neglect of supervision or neglect to put up a proper building—neglect of such a kind as to amount to culpable negligence—it would be manslaughter if a person was killed by that.

Mr. Slade asked if that would hold good whether or not he had deputed other people to do the work for him?

His Lordship said a man might say "I am incompetent to build a house and therefore I put it in the hands of an architect." If it was in the hands of an architect to superintend the building it was his legal duty to supervise it and see that it was done properly. If a man had to go to a man like the prisoners who were supposed to be contractors, and he undertook this work and did not think it necessary to employ an architect and did not do the work properly and killed a man thereby, his Lordship would hold that to be manslaughter and would tell the jury so.

Mr. Slade asked how that would hold in the case of a sub-contractor?

His Lordship stated that by sub-contracting to somebody more incompetent than themselves they would not escape responsibility. If two men undertook to build a house and were incompetent to do the job it was very wrong of them to charge money for doing what they could not do and if they undertook to do the work not of making a pair of boots but of building a house in which people were going to live they were undertaking something that would in all probability kill people if they did not do it properly. There was the case of a man lately who left open a gate leading on to a railway. A cart was driven through this gate on the railway because the gate happened to be open and a train came along and killed the carter. That was held to be manslaughter on the part of the man who was engaged to keep the gate shut and to attend to the gate; his hours were from 12 to 15 hours a day, but that did not matter. The point was raised whether that ought to be left to the jury in that way and they said certainly the man was engaged to do something which would be dangerous if he did not do it, and although there were no duties between the carter and himself for the use of the gate it was held unanimously by the Court that that man was rightly convicted of manslaughter, yet all he did was to leave the gate open.

Mr. Slade said in that case the man was present. Suppose that he had left somebody else.

His Lordship quoted from memory a case of the kind referred to by Mr. Slade. It was that of a man who went away from his work of attending to winding-up machinery at a mine and left a boy in charge of the work and did not do it himself. That man was held responsible.

Mr. Slade contended that in the case which his Lordship had quoted the man knew the boy he left in charge was grossly incompetent.

The Attorney-General commented that when the Statute cast a direct duty upon contractors they had to do it themselves.

Mr. Slade asked if he was then to understand that, no matter how much the Crown proved that he left the work to incompetent people or how much the defence proved that he contracted this work out to competent people, he did not escape liability.

His Lordship stated that he could not escape the liability. What he would tell the jury, and he would lay it down as the law in Hongkong, was that if contractors undertook to build a house and took the responsibility of building a house for human habitation without taking the responsibility off their shoulders by employing a proper architect to superintend the work but chose to do the architect's work themselves, they could not escape responsibility.

Mr. Slade asked if then the contractor was to be held liable for the fault of every bricklayer or of anybody on the work?

His Lordship replied that he referred to the work for which an architect was usually employed. If that turned out to be done in a grossly negligent way—that they did not even go near the place while it was being carried out—and if it was held that the house fell because of that bad work, the contractors must be held liable. If that was not the law in Hongkong he did not know what would happen; half of us might be killed.

Mr. Slade asked his Lordship to suppose that he employed a sub-contractor who employed labourers to do the work.

His Lordship said it would be the same whether he did it himself or got some incompetent person to do it. If the jury came to the conclusion that the house fell down because it was not properly built and that it was culpable negligence on their part in not building it properly, the jury would be quite justified in finding these men guilty of manslaughter.

Mr. Slade, addressing the jury, said the ruling had been given that these men could not escape their criminal liability by giving the work over to anybody else. He would argue that that ruling was not a commonsense ruling. He afterwards went on to put forward the contention that the death of these people who were killed by the collapse was not caused by the fall of No. 10 but by the fall of No. 12, which came down on No. 10 and carried it away too. These contractors had nothing whatever to do with No. 12. He would prove too that the prisoners entrusted their work to a man whom they had every reason to believe was a competent man. It was for the Crown to prove the guilt of these two men, and if the Crown failed to prove that the man to whom they entrusted the work was an incompetent man then he submitted, with all deference to his Lordship, that the proper ruling ought to be that these men were not responsible.

One witness, Tsung Tsau, head bricklayer, was afterwards examined for the defence.

The Court adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Saturday, 20th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

The hearing was resumed of this case.

Mr. Slade, barrister-at-law, in making his concluding address, said that in order to find a man guilty of manslaughter by negligence or manslaughter of any kind there must be proved against him by the Crown some personal act amounting to gross negligence, not merely ordinary negligence or carelessness such as would expose him to a civil action, but very gross negligence.

His Lordship said he would leave the point of gross negligence to the jury.

Mr. Slade, continuing, said the act itself must be *malum in se*, not mere *malum prohibitum*.

His Lordship pointed out that in the case which he had referred to on the previous day, that of a man who left a gate open leading on to a railway (*Times Law Reports* for the week ending 12th November, 1902, Vol. XIX, No. 2,

p. 37) it was clearly laid down that such act must not necessarily be *malum in se*.

Mr. Slade said he would not attempt to argue against the authority of that case.

His Lordship stated that he proposed to leave these points to the jury:—Was the death of the boy Wong Chun caused by the collapse of No. 12, Second Street? Was that collapse caused by the fall of the wall in No. 10? Was the fall of the wall in No. 10 occasioned by the neglect of the defendants or either of them and which? Did they use reasonable care and skill in the construction of No. 10? Then, if so, was such neglect so gross as to amount to culpable negligence? These, he thought, covered the whole ground.

Mr. Slade then resumed his address, which continued till half-past 12 o'clock.

The Attorney-General having also addressed his Lordship on the points of law and the jury on the facts,

The Court adjourned.

Monday, 22nd December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE—CONTRACTORS FOUND NOT GUILTY.

The evidence had been completed on Friday last and counsel addressed the jury on Saturday.

His Lordship in summing up reviewed the evidence at length. In directing the jury on the point of law he said it is the duty of a person who contracts to build a house for another for human habitation to use reasonable care that the work is properly carried out. Where, as in this Colony, certain statutory enactments are in force as to the proper bonding of the walls and the materials which are to be used, it is the duty of the person undertaking to build to see that those statutory requirements are complied with. It is also his duty to carry out the terms of the contract. In this Colony, therefore, the person who contracts to build a house for another has cast upon him certain statutory duties and certain duties arising out of his contract. If, by any grave failure, to perform his duties, i.e., by his criminal negligence in the performance of his duties or in the omission to perform his duties he caused the death of a human being, he had caused that death unlawfully and was guilty of manslaughter. It was a very important matter, he said in conclusion, that when human life was lost there should be a very careful investigation not only to find out how it happened but to prevent it happening again if possible. It was a serious matter the jury had got to consider. They would be doing very wrong if they said, "There have been a great many collapses; we must bring somebody to book, we will convict the first person who comes before us." He would insult their intelligence by supposing for a moment, however, that they would take up that view. What they had to do here, and what they had taken an oath to do was to return a verdict according to the evidence. As to what evidence they were to accept, they must form their own opinion. They would have to think whom the men were who undertook to build these houses. Were they competent? Should they have taken this job at all? If one of them was not competent, then was the other competent? Each of the men seemed to say that he had not been responsible; each said that it was the other who had to do with it. Was it a legitimate conclusion, then, for the jury to draw that the work was not properly supervised; no person of any skill or intelligence supervised it; a certain man was employed to procure labour but no man to secure brains to see that the labour was properly done? The man who undertook a contract to build a house yet did not choose to take any responsibility for the supervision put himself in a perilous position. Things might turn out luckily for him and the house be well built, he might get off all right and make his money, but the law enforced that a man who put himself out as a building contractor was bound to use reasonable skill and intelligence. He should learn his business as an apprentice. The jury would have to consider whether these men were

competent. If the jury took the statement of the men themselves that they did not go down to see the building operations in connection with these houses then it was evident that there was no proper supervision of the work at all. What was the result? Was the wall properly built, and, if it was not properly built, where were the faults? No one suggested that the bonding was good. The bonding was bad; it had been stated so by Mr. Haggard and Mr. Hewet. The law required the bonding to be good. The section of the Act referring to this said, "Every wall shall be properly bonded and substantially put together." This wall was not properly bonded. It was for the jury to consider whether that contributed to the fall of the wall. As regards the mortar there was a conflict of evidence. Mr. Tucker said it seemed to be of fair quality. Mr. Hewet said it was not good but on the good side of indifferent, and that there was a straight joint for nearly the whole length of the building between the party wall and the front wall, and that was decidedly bad workmanship; the bonding was bad especially at the corners, where it ought to be especially good; the corbelling courses had mostly given and they were slanted instead of being flat. Therefore the jury had got to this point, if they were asked what were the faults—undisputed bad corbelling and bad bonding. No one had given any evidence to show that they were good. If these things combined to help to make a wall fall—as this wall fell—under a wind which was not of typhoon force, was it not negligence on the part of the man who put it up? His Lordship submitted that the jury had to consider now whether these men were guilty of a grave dereliction of their duty, a grave failure to comply with the requirements of the Act. If they were, and that Act contributed to the fall of the wall, should the jury think that the wall fell on the roof and killed the boy they were bound to find the prisoners guilty. If they had any reasonable doubt about the matter, if they thought that the wind was of typhoon force and that No. 12 fell in first and so brought the wall of No. 10 down, then it would not be the fault of these men. He thought he had laid down the law and had given the facts to the jury. He would give them the return of the velocities of the wind on the day in question and ask them to retire and consider their verdict and say whether there had been great failure of duty on the part of these men. The questions he would leave to them were: Was the death of the boy Wong Chun caused by the collapse of No. 12, Second Street? Was that collapse caused by the fall of the wall of No. 10? Was the fall of the wall of No. 10 occasioned by the neglect of the defendants or either of them (and which) to use reasonable care and skill in the construction of No. 10? If so, was such neglect so gross as to amount to criminal negligence? As to criminal negligence his Lordship adopted the words of Justice Blackburn in *Reg. v. Eyre, Fintons' Report*, p. 57: "Criminal negligence is a phrase constantly used in criminal cases, but the amount of negligence that would make a man so responsible cannot be defined. It is not a little failure in duty that would make him criminally responsible, a great failure of duty undoubtedly would. The line between the two is hard to define and must be left to a great extent in each individual case to the common sense of the jury whether or not the degree of failure of duty is criminal."

After an absence of about half-an-hour the jury returned into Court. When asked for their verdict,

The Foreman said—Unanimously not guilty of manslaughter.

His Lordship—Let the prisoners be discharged.

The Foreman—Your Lordship, may the jury add a rider.

His Lordship—You are here to try these men and you have found them not guilty. That is all we have to do with it. However, let me hear your rider and I will consider it.

The Foreman—The jury desire to add this rider to their verdict:—"The jury are of the opinion that the authorities should adopt more stringent measures to prevent houses being built in such a manner as in this case over which we have given our verdict, where incompetent men are left entirely to themselves without any supervision whatever to erect houses in such a

manner as to render them most dangerous for human habitation and the public at large."

The Attorney-General—We cannot do more than make a law. If juries choose to acquit people who disregard the law the responsibility is upon the gentlemen of the jury; the authorities can do no more than they have already done. The responsibility for the endangering of life is entirely upon the jury for the verdict they have given. We can do nothing more than make the law which they disregard.

His Lordship—It is for you (the jury) to find the verdict. The responsibility is upon you. As regards the other part of the verdict we are not legislators in this Court. That is a matter for the administration. What we wanted to know was whether this house was properly built and if any blame was attached to the prisoners. You have acquitted them, and there is an end of the case.

The Attorney-General—There has been no white person killed yet by a collapse. When some white man is killed the jury may take a somewhat more serious view.

His Lordship—They say in their rider, that measures should be taken to prevent houses being built in such a way as was done in this case, and they return a verdict of not guilty.

The Attorney-General—By the rider they stultify themselves.

His Lordship—If the jury will not convict a man we cannot stop him from doing it; you can make a law, and yet you cannot hold that man responsible who builds contrary to law.

The Attorney-General—They unanimously found that these incompetent persons are not guilty and think the authorities should take some strong measures—so do what I do not know. The rider is absolutely inconsistent with the verdict, and the verdict with the rider; taken together they stultify the jury. I would commend the jury in the future to adhere to their verdict and leave riders alone. It is often safer to give a judgment without giving reasons.

The jury were discharged.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Lo Wing and Sung Li pleaded not guilty to a charge of having committed armed robbery at Kukpo, Mirs Bay, on 25th November.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. H. E. Morris, J. Y. de la Bruchollerie, E. G. Barrett, G. A. Yvanovich, R. H. B. Mitchell, I. S. Levy, and L. L. Lopes.

The evidence showed that during the night three robbers dropped through the roof of a farm-house at Kukpo, terrorised the inmates with a revolver and a knife and go off with a quantity of clothing and a pair of silver bangles. The two prisoners were captured next day with some of the stolen articles in their possession.

The jury found both prisoners guilty.

His Lordship sentenced them each to five years imprisonment with hard labour and to receive 20 strokes with the birch during the first week. For their action in capturing the prisoners his Lordship commended L. S. 56 Wilson, P. S. 54 Smith and I. P. C. 555.

ANOTHER ARMED ROBBERY.

Wong Ping and Chuen Fong were empanelled on a charge of having committed armed robbery at Shek O on 23rd November.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was chosen:—Messrs. S. F. de Jesus, P. F. da Cruz Pratta, R. H. B. Mitchell, E. G. Barrett, G. A. Yvanovich, E. J. Lopes, and A. G. G. Gordon.

After hearing the evidence, which went to show that four men, of whom the prisoners were two, entered a dwelling-house at night-time armed with a revolver and a knife, threatened the inmates and stole a large amount of clothing and valuables, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against both the accused.

His Lordship said that this armed robbery was getting a very serious matter. It would have to be put a stop to. Every Sessions now they had five or six of these cases of ruffians dropping through the roofs of houses and robbing poor villagers. The people who associated with these gangs and received the stolen property were as bad as the robbers themselves. He sentenced each of the prisoners to five years' hard labour and to receive 20 strokes with the birch during the first week.

The Court rose shortly after four o'clock.

Tuesday, 23rd December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. C. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

A CHINESE COPYRIGHT CASE.

Lo Sing Lau sued the Man Yu Tong firm, stationers and printers, for damages of \$1,000 for infringement of the plaintiff's copyright in a book entitled *English Self-taught*, and costs.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. E. A. Bonner of Messrs. Deunys & Bowley, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff. The defendants were not represented.

Plaintiff in his statement of claim declared that in 1894-95 he composed and wrote a book entitled *English Self-taught for Chinese* the first edition of which was caused by him to be printed and published in Hongkong in 1896. Second and third editions were put out by him in 1898 and 1901. All were registered in the Registrar-General's office in the name of the plaintiff who was and is sole proprietor of the copyright. The defendant firm had infringed the plaintiff's copyright in the book by printing and publishing without consent of the plaintiff a certain book with the title *English and Chinese Self-taught*, which latter book consisted substantially of a copy of the plaintiff's book with the exception of certain tone marks. The defendant firm in 1902 also sold copies of the book entitled *English and Chinese Self-taught*.

Defendants in their statement of defence claimed that this book which they published and sold was first published and sold by them many years ago, prior to 1895 at least, and that from then down to the present time it had been sold by them. In 1895, defendants stated, they employed plaintiff to revise their book at \$50 per month and \$1 per page for new matter. In breach of his duty and without the defendants' consent plaintiff published the said book in his own name as having been written and compiled by him. On learning of this publication defendants threatened legal proceedings and in consequence plaintiff agreed in settlement to pay them \$80 and allow them to use his corrections or new matter in any future editions. In view of that settlement, defendants caused a new edition to be printed in Japan in 1901 and made use of plaintiff's work in revising the original. This new edition was not substantially a copy of the plaintiff's alleged book—very little if any matter written or composed by the plaintiff was contained in the new edition.

The plaintiff in his evidence deposed that he was a clerk in the Marine Surveyor's office. Some years ago he obtained from his mother-in-law a book written in the Ningpo dialect which enabled a Ningpo-speaking Chinese to learn English. His mother-in-law got the book from Wong Fuk Chan, a common friend. From that book he took the English characters and produced a Cantonese tutor. It took him ten months to do but the book turned out profitable. In May, 1896, the first edition of 1,500 copies was issued and registered. These were all sold, some cloth-bound copies at 75 cents. In 1898 a second edition of 2,000 was printed and sold at \$1.25 and \$1. In 1901 a third edition at similar prices appeared consisting of 2,000 copies, of which 1,900 had already been sold. All the editions were registered. He had given Wong Fuk Chan \$40 for the use of his book. Witness denied the defendants' statement that he was employed at \$50 a month to revise the book. The book was his own venture. Some time ago a book entitled *English and Chinese Self-taught* was shown to him. That book, which was the book produced by the defendants, was a copy of his work with one or two minor omissions and alterations.

Mr. Pollock pointed out to his Lordship that several typographical blunders were even copied.

Wong Fuk Wan for the plaintiff deposed that he was a student at a private school in Cochrane Street and that he had bought one of the pirated books (produced in Court) from the defendants for \$1.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs, the amount of damages to be assessed by the Registrar on the 5th January, after due notice of said reference to the defendants; if defendants did not appear on the said

reference the Registrar to be empowered to award damages of the sum of \$700, which sum the plaintiff stated that he had agreed with the defendants to accept. It was further ordered that the defendants should deliver up to the plaintiff all copies of the book infringing the plaintiff's copyright which may be in their possession or power by 31st December, 1902. The Court adjourned.

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSES
OF BUILDINGS.

PRAYA EAST—C MMITAL FOR TR AL.

On the 22nd inst., before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a common jury, the official enquiry was resumed into the circumstances attending the fatal collapse of house No. 45, Praya East, on 2nd August last. Mr. F. B. L. Bowlby, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Government. Mr. H. W. Looker on behalf of the architects, Messrs Leigh and Orange, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson on behalf of the contractor, Man Wo. Mr. A. S. Hooper watched the case on behalf of the Land Investment Company, of which he is secretary.

Leung Tung, who occupied a room on the first floor at 45, Praya East when the collapse occurred, said he made an inspection of the house first before the accident and found all the windows shut. He was partly buried in the debris of the collapse, and was rescued by a European constable.

Esidone Michael Xavier, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, said he made several personal inspections of the houses between June and November, 1900, but thought he did not go into No. 45, Praya East. He knew nothing about the houses, however, and as far as he could recollect had never examined into the condition of the collapsed side wall of No. 45.

Percy Thomas Crisp, inspector of buildings, Public Works Department, said he only arrived in the Colony on 9th November, 1900, and knew nothing of the house that had collapsed. He inspected them when completed in connection with the application for a certificate authorising their occupation, but made no entry in his diary in relation to that visit, the result of the visit in question was that he recommended the houses to be passed. When he made it he did not take with him the plans deposited in the Public Works Department. It was not the rule then to take plans out, and he had never been told to do so. He cut no holes in the walls to ascertain their condition; that was a practice he followed only after the Cochrane Street collapse.

Henry Ernest Yorke Haggard, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, deposed that on 3rd August he made an inspection of the collapsed house in Praya East to discover whether there was anything dangerous to the public safety, and again on 27th August with the view of learning the general condition of the walls and the quality of the materials. The bricks were all of fair quality—of good quality, he might say, for this Colony; the mortar also was fair. In some cases, however, the mortar joints in the portion of wall left standing were not properly filled up, and the bonding was bad at the junction of the front and western walls; the bonding of the collapsed side wall itself was fair. In his opinion the immediate cause of the collapse was the typhoon, but the side wall might not have been sufficiently thick. Again, the wind might have got in at the back window on the top floor and blown the wall out; the window might have been forced open by the storm. His opinion was that the wall which collapsed was not strong enough to withstand a typhoon.

By Mr. Looker—The wall was of the thickness prescribed by the Building Ordinance.

William Chatham, Director of Public Works, was next called. He stated that when the permit for the houses in Praya East was issued the practice with regard to walls exceeding 35 feet in length was to deal with them as ordinary walls. In his opinion, however, that was not a proper practice, and he also thought that the dimensions prescribed by the Building Ordinance for walls not exceeding 35 feet in length were not sufficient for a wall 43 feet 11 inches in length; the dimensions in the latter case, which were those of the side wall at 45, Praya East, ought to be increased. It was

quite possible, at the same time, that if the plan showing these dimensions had been specially brought to his attention at the time, he would have passed it. The deviation from the original plan was a serious one, undoubtedly. Since the collapse he had examined the remains of the house and formed the opinion that the bonding was somewhat defective. Had the bonding been good it might have tended to prevent the collapse.

In answer to Mr. Looker, witness said the alterations in the plan in no way infringed the provisions of the Building Ordinance. The granting of the certificate must be held, he thought, to be an approval of the deviation by the Public Works Department.

Frank Browne, Government Analyst, gave the results of his analysis of the mortar used in the building of the houses. One sample, considering its age and hardness, was good; the other was powdery, and there ore bad.

The examination of Frederick Thomas Baines Hewitt, building surveyor attached to the Royal Engineers here, who attributed the collapse to the weakness of the back wall, concluded the evidence, and the hearing was adjourned.

There being no further evidence, Mr. Wilkinson addressed the jury. He said the law did not require more than ordinary, reasonable precautions to be observed in such cases, and therefore the jury had not to consider whether it was possible to have designed and constructed these houses so that they could not possibly have collapsed, but simply whether reasonable precautions had been used by the parties concerned, and whether the evidence justified them (the jury) in saying that some person had been guilty of criminal negligence which resulted in the collapse and the deaths of the unfortunate people who were killed thereby. The Crown Solicitor, in his opening statement, was quite in error in saying that no man could rid himself of responsibility by delegating his duties to some other person, but would be liable for the criminal negligence of that other. Such was not the case. A master was frequently held liable in damages for the negligence of his servants, but not criminally liable for his servants' acts of criminal negligence unless he expressly authorised such acts or had himself been criminally negligent in employing that servant or servants, as, for instance, if an engine driver employed an inexperienced youth to drive his engine, and an accident resulted. In support of his contention, Mr. Wilkinson quoted Justice Stevens's *History of Criminal Law* and *Digest of Criminal Law*. Continuing, he said the duty of the contractor in the present case was to put up the buildings in accordance with the plans and specifications given to him. Mr. Leigh had been asked the question, "Was the work done in accordance with the specifications?" and his answer was, "Yes." There was positive evidence, the only positive evidence the jury had got, that the contractor had done his duty, and consequently whatever happened afterwards was not the result of any neglect of duty on his part. Mr. Wilkinson further submitted that even if the evidence had been to the effect that the contractor had not put up these buildings in accordance with the plans and specifications, or that he had used bad materials in the construction of these houses, even then the jury could not find him guilty of criminal negligence unless simply satisfied that it was his personal duty to superintend the laying of every brick and every piece of mortar. It was absolutely impossible for the jury to find the contractor guilty of neglect. The only evidence that the materials used by him were not perfectly good was that of Mr. Browne, the Government Analyst, who examined the mortar taken from a brick said to have been taken out from the ruins. But what proof was there that the brick was one of those actually used in the construction of the houses? There was no possible proof whatever. As to the collapse, it occurred at a quarter-past ten o'clock at night, when the typhoon was at its height. Was it not probable that one of the windows on the top floor had been blown in and that one of the heavy gusts blew out the top story, which brought down the rest of the building? If the jury were satisfied as to that, or if they had any reasonable doubt that it was not the case, the only possible verdict they could bring in was that the deaths

of these people were due to an accident for which no man was responsible—due to an act of God, not to an act of man.

Mr. Looker next addressed the jury. He said his friend Mr. Wilkinson had stated the law, and he thought his views would be upheld by the magistrate. He would only supplement his quotations by saying that it had been held that a culpable mistake or some degree of culpable negligence causing death would not support a charge of manslaughter unless the negligence was so great as to be reckless. They were there to enquire into the cause of the deaths of certain people, and while they knew that the actual cause of death was the collapse of the wall of a house in Praya East, the jury had also to find out whether anyone, by criminal or reckless negligence, contributed to that cause of death. The duty of an architect were to prepare the plans of a building and then to superintend the work. In the present case the plans were approved by the Public Works Department as being in accordance with the provisions of the Building Ordinance, so that the first duty of the architect was satisfactorily discharged. As to the other duty, that of superintending the work of construction, it was perfectly obvious that any architect, however anxious and willing to do so, could not possibly superintend every detail of the construction. It was laid down by accepted authorities that it was impossible for him to do so: by Hu'son, for instance, the leading authority on the duties of architects and engineers, and the jury, Mr. Looker thought, would agree that an architect could not be expected to be on the works all day and look after everything—to superintend the laying of every course of brickwork and the mixing of every fresh lot of mortar. The primary cause of the collapse, of course, was the wind, but was it assisted in any way by defects in the materials used or in the work of construction? The original plan had been deviated from in order that the houses, when erected, should comply with the requirements of a new sanitary Ordinance, but even when so altered the plan fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Building Ordinance and in no way affected the stability of the building. Not only that, but the certificate granted by the Public Works Department, after the houses had been inspected, showed that they were all right. The bricks might have been bad, but everybody had said they were good; the mortar might have been bad, but practically everybody had said it was good. The bonding might have been bad, but the wall had fallen, and there was nobody to give actual evidence as to what it was like before the collapse except the contractor. They had been told that the bricks were of various sizes, and that that necessitated a certain amount of bad bonding. No doubt there was a certain amount of bad bonding, but so there was also in every house in the Colony put up by Chinese. The bonding, Mr. Looker submitted, was of the ordinary description of bonding found in every Chinese house in the Colony, and as with the bonding, so also with the bricks and mortar. The only other possible factor in the collapse, apart from the weather, was the thickness of the wall. The Ordinance said that a wall of the dimensions of that which collapsed should be 22 inches thick; in this case the wall was 24 inches thick—two inches thicker than the Ordinance prescribed. Therefore the jury would have to take it that the wall was of a proper and safe thickness, according to the experience of that time. The wall at the other end of the block was exactly similar in every way, as were many others now standing in the Colony, despite the many typhoons to which they had been exposed; the first mentioned wall, that at the opposite end of the block, had withstood at least two typhoons, apparently without suffering in any way. In these circumstances there must have been something in the present collapse that had not been accounted for and which was nobody's fault. The explanation, Mr. Looker thought, was to be found in the extraordinarily severe weather—that the wind and rain got on this newly built wall and blew it down, and if there had been a continuance of the wind and rain there was no doubt that many more would have been blown down. The action of the Public Works Department in passing the plan was sufficient proof of the satisfactoriness of the

building, and he submitted that not only the architect but everybody else did their duty, and that the collapse was a pure accident and the fault of no one.

Mr. Bowley, who next addressed the jury, said they were not there to try any specific charges against the contractor or the architect, as his learned friends might lead the jury to suppose, they had simply to find out the cause of the deaths of these people and whether anybody was to blame; they were not tied down to answering any specific question, but to find out the cause of the accident. There could be no doubt that these deaths were caused by the falling of the house, and that the house fell at about the time when the typhoon of the 2nd August last had reached its height. That was quite clear; the only thing was to find out whether there had been any defects in the building which contributed to its fall. He accepted Mr. Wilkinson's definition of negligence, but what were the legal duties of everyone concerned in the building of these houses? The legal duties of the Public Works Department were to see that the provisions of the Building Ordinance were carried out, of the architects, to see to the supervision of the building work, and of the contractor, to see that the buildings were erected in such a way that they would be substantial and comply with the provisions of the Building Ordinance. One of the requirements of Building Ordinance 25 of 1891 was to the effect that a wall should be solid across its entire thickness and properly bonded and put together with good lime mortar. In the case before the jury the evidence showed that the walls were not solid across their entire thickness and were not properly bonded. The duty to see that the wall was properly constructed fell upon the Public Works Department, the architect, and the contractor, and they could not get out of that duty. The architect did not absolve himself from responsibility by appointing an overseer who had practically no experience in building work, and who thought that mortar was composed of two parts of lime and one of red earth. The question really came to this—Did the Public Works Department, the architect, and the contractor neglect their duty? All the evidence called in the case, having that of a formal nature out of consideration, was, with the exception of that of the last witness, Mr. Hewitt, given by interested witnesses with a bias in favour of the buildings. They had come there, no doubt, to try to show to the jury what they thought about the houses, but through it all they had, as before stated, a natural prejudice in favour of the buildings. The Public Works Department approved of the plans in the first instance, although the then Director of Public Buildings, Mr. Ormsby, might have exercised his discretion in the case of a wall exceeding 35 feet in length and stipulated for its additional thickness of the building of cross wall. The plans passed, the work on the houses started, and the Public Works Department inspected it during its progress and when finished blessed the houses by issuing a certificate to the effect that they had been built in accordance with the Building Ordinance. The usual requisition was sent in that the houses should be inspected. Mr. Crisp was detailed to carry out the inspection, which, as had been seen from his evidence, was a very casual one. He did not take the plans with him, and thought, as a matter of fact, that he had never seen the plans; the walls were covered with plaster, and as he took none of the plaster off he could not tell whether the bonding was properly done or not. On that inspection the Public Works Department granted the certificate. The architect was charged with the supervision of the building work. Mr. Looker had said it was impossible for the architect to superintend every detail of the building work, which at home would be looked after by a qualified clerk of works. In this case there was no clerk of works, and while Mr. Bowley did not hold that it was the duty of the architect to superintend every detail of the work, a person charged with the general supervision of a wall in course of erection could say whether the wall as a whole was or was not satisfactorily and properly built. It had been adduced that the bonding of the wall was bad, and in addition to that there was a certain amount of evidence that some of the

bricks in all probability were built into the wall dry. This tended to weaken the wall, continued Mr. Bowley, who proceeded to detail the precautions that might have been taken to ensure the stability of the wall. Mr. Looker, he said, had rather erred in his statement regarding the weather: the excessive rains did not commence until the wall had been erected for about eighteen months, and at that age it was at its maximum strength. In conclusion, Mr. Bowley submitted that the typhoon was the cause of the accident, that the typhoon had found out some weak places in the wall, that the wall was not properly bonded and properly constructed and put together in accordance with the provisions of the Building Ordinance, and that the inspectors of the Public Works Department, the architects, and the contractor had not exercised that amount of supervision it was their duty to exercise in respect of the brick wall of the house.

Having charged the jury, his Worship put to them the following three questions—

(1) What was the cause of the deaths of the deceased herein?

(2) Were the deaths of the deceased the result of criminal negligence? and

(3) If yes, what person or persons are guilty of such criminal negligence?

The jury retired, and on returning into Court gave the following answers to the questions:—

(1) The cause of the deaths of the deceased was the collapse of house No. 45, Praya East;

(2) The deaths of the deceased were the result of criminal negligence;

(3) The persons guilty of such criminal negligence are the contractor, architects, and Public Works Department, because they did not exercise the necessary supervision.

His Worship said he could not accept the verdict as it stood—that the jury would have to put in names.

A Juror—Whom shall we blame in the Public Works Department?

His Worship—You must determine that for yourselves. I cannot advise you.

The jury again retired, and when they had re-entered and resumed their seats the foreman intimated that they found the contractor, Mau Wo, and the architects, Messrs Leigh & Orange, guilty of criminal negligence. He added—We cannot lay the blame on any particular person in the Public Works Department, but we consider they did not do their duty.

Mr. Looker submitted that the verdict was incomplete. As it stood, it held that the deaths were caused by the collapse of the house for want of supervision, but it failed to bring it definitely down to something to fix the criminal negligence.

Mr. Bowley contended that the jury had answered the three questions put to them by his Worship, and there they must leave it.

Mr. Looker then drew attention to the fact that when the jury first came in they brought a verdict of criminal negligence against three parties, and he submitted that they could not now go back on that verdict and leave out the Public Works Department.

His Worship—I think the jury are entitled to amend their verdict in that way.

The jury were for the third time directed to retire and name in full the two partners in the firm of Messrs Leigh and Orange as being guilty of criminal negligence, and this they did.

His Worship then formally committed to trial at the next Criminal Sessions Mau Wo, Robert Kennaway Leigh, and James Orange.

Mr. Leigh, who was in Court, was allowed to give his personal recognisances that he would appear for trial, and the same course was followed in the case of Mr. Orange. Bail for the contractor was fixed at \$5,000.

A memorial tablet has been placed in the hall of the British Consulate-General, Shanghai, bearing the following legend:—"In Memory of Edward Colborne Baber, H.B.M.'s Consul at Swatow. A distinguished explorer whose travels added greatly to the knowledge of Western China and won for him the honour of the Royal Medal of the R.G.S. in 1883. Born 30th April, 1843. Died 16th June, 1890, at Bhamo where he was employed as Adviser of Chinese Affairs to the Government of Burma. This tablet has been placed here by some of his many friends in H.B.M.'s consular service in China."

REVIEW.

Verse and Worse: Selections from the Writings of "TUNG CHI" (J. O. P. BLAND). With Illustrations by W. D. STRAIGHT. Published in Shanghai, 1902.

Few dwellers on the China Coast, we imagine, have not at one time or other come under the charm of Mr. Bland's occasional writings. The fruits of his prolific pen have appeared in a variety of papers, some in the *Rattle*, some in the *North-China Daily News* and others in the home Press; wherever given to the public they have been valued no less for their ripe flavour of Far Eastern life than for the intrinsic merit which is theirs, for the true grasp which the author has of the significance of things in the conflict and intercourse of the Oriental with the Caucasian. By those already acquainted with Mr. Bland's works in their fugitive form this gathering of them together into one volume will be greeted with approbation; it will doubtless also have the effect of extending the large circle of his admirers. Of entertaining writers on every-day subjects in the East the number is lamentably few. The man who can overcome the ennui of coast-port life, with that sordid spirit of money-getting that mainly permeates it, who has eyes to observe matters other than market quotations and can write lightly and with abandon in despite of a declining dollar, is to be crowned with admiration. Mr. Bland possesses all these attributes. His entertaining writings bear the impress of the humourist and are as cheerful as the philosophy of Mark Tapley. Yet it is not altogether on the less responsible aspect of European life in China that the writer dwells. He speaks with no uncertain voice on the subject of English empire in the East. The first item in the book is in stirring verse, "For England," an exhortation written in 1898, against the "graceful concessions" which those who have lived among Eastern peoples will agree could bear no other lesson to the Celestial mind than "that England is no longer as England was of old."

"The Peiho trackers tell it
When South winds fill the sail,
'Tis borne by Kalgan's camel-men
Who take the Kiachta trail;
The Yangtze gorges hear it
In the jests of a lorch's crew,
And Shameen's painted flower-girls
Have sworn that it is true."

With Mr. Bland we all trust that the days of "graceful concessions" are gone, that England will awake and answer and "prove the tale untrue." A like piece of verse is the "Retrecessional" (dedicated to Rudyard Kipling at the time of the Port Arthur incident). The doings of the Article Club in its relationship with "Sir Chih Chen" are made the subject, too, of a clever skit. Mr. Bland as a topical versifier has the happy knack of "getting the e" every time. In his love-verse, he is no less successful. Of such pieces as "Celia" and "To Sylvia" we would fain have more from the same pen; these have a gentle merit all their own.

When it comes to a perusal of Mr. Bland's prose pieces one is struck with the versatility both in subject and treatment they evince. All sorts of readers will find something to divert them. Each separate piece may be said to be the depiction of a different aspect of coast-port life. "An Extinct Science," "Chinese Blade," "Nuit d'Été," "On the Gentle Art of Giving Dinners," and "A Shanghai Bank Holiday" are all excellent studies. There is not indeed a dull page in the whole book. The author's style is light and playful, yet underneath all the laughter and the cracking of jokes are hid home truths and more inward knowledge of the things that matter than many a book of greater pretensions can boast. *Verse and Worse* is profusely and well illustrated. The printing and paper are good.

The book may be had from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

Alfredo de Lucchi, who mysteriously disappeared from Singapore on August 14th last, and was apprehended at Marseilles by the French Police on a charge of forgery, was brought back to Singapore by the *Ballaraat*. The allegation against the defendant is that he committed forgery by affixing the name of Herman Stachelin to a cheque for \$9,350 on the 13th of August last.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 26th December.)

The past week has been a disappointing one for sport, rain making most outdoor pursuits almost out of the question. In fact it is almost a pity that the "wet-bobs" who organised so excellent a regatta on the 10th and 11th instant did not prolong their aquatic carnival so as to show us how to rise superior to the damp weather. To-day, if we do not get a continuation of the rain, some interesting sporting events are due to come off. Dealing first with that which is nearest at hand, on the Cricket Ground at 11 sharp—will it be at 11 sharp?—there should commence a match between the Married and Single men of this Colony. The Married seem to have the stronger team, but much depends upon the wicket.

At football, Association holds the field, and a fairly strong Club team, including two prominent Rugby men, meet the H.M.S. *Ocean*, one of the ships which has entered for the Shield. Another of the naval teams, that from H.M.S. *Glory*, goes to Causeway Bay to meet the V.R.C. The serious work of Association football is near at hand now. The Shield ties involve 14 teams—8 military, 4 naval, and 2 civilian. Two of the naval teams, those from the *Ocean* and *Pique*, do not play until round 2, when they oppose one another. The Sherwood Foresters have 4 teams in, of which two meet in the first round, while the Royal Artillery send in two teams. The H.K.F.C. meet H.M.S. *Glory* (whom they defeated in a friendly match on Tuesday) and the match is to be played on the 27th inst., at 3.45 p.m., as the *Glory* is going away for a time. The first round has to be completed by the 31st prox.

There is also a Rugby match to-day, on the Naval ground, the H.K.F.C.'s team, "A" team meeting the "A" team of H.M.S. *Glory*. Some good players figure on both sides.

The Hockey Shield competition did not, after all, commence this week, the heavy down-pour of rain on Thursday making play in what should have been the Club's opening match out of the question. The Club had got together a strong team, though having at least three reserves on the list. The game will be played sometime after Christmas. The naval teams ought to do well in this competition, and I should not be surprised if either the *Ocean* or the *Blenheim* supplied the winners. All the same, the Club 1st team should have a good chance, if the members will make an effort to play regularly. The Club's energetic secretary, who has been away shooting geese, is expected back before Christmas.

The Yacht Club announce a Ladies' Race to-day at 2.30 p.m., not 2 o'clock as previously announced (for which it is to be hoped the weather will be propitious), and to-morrow there is the 5th Club Race of the season. The *Dione* is getting rather a long lead in the first class over the other new boat, but the *Alannah* is well up.

Though the affairs of the Hongkong Club are of course private, it is no breach of confidence to announce that the proposal to retain the present bowling-alleys when the extension of the Club buildings has been thrown open has been defeated by more than a 3 to 1 majority. It is still possible that a requisition for a general meeting may be sent in, but I fear that the bowling alleys are doomed. This is rather a pity, seeing that the matches between the Hongkong and German Clubs in each other's alleys have been followed in the past with no little interest.

There being a strong contingent of H.M. Fleet at Singapore just now, a match was arranged on the 9th inst. between the Singapore Rugby footballers and a Navy XV. The Navy, who had Royds and Pringle at three-quarters, won by three tries to a goal from a mark (9 points to 5). The Singapore men showed up best forward.

(Daily Press, 27th December.)

Hongkong, unlike some of our neighbours mentioned below, has an entirely domestic programme for the Christmas holidays. The main

item, of course, is the cricket match between the H.K.C.C. and the United Services—the annual event. Last year, it may be remembered, an exciting game ended in a win for the Civilians on the first innings. Thanks to 90 from France-Hayhurst, 66 from Lieut. Wood, and 51 from Digby the Services put together 261. Ward played a great game for the Civilians, compiling 132, while Hooper backed him up nobly with 61. Nevertheless, when Ward left at 254 eight wickets were down and eight runs were wanted to win. Another wicket fell without any addition to the score, but Howard kept in and P. A. Cox emphasised the win for the Club with a sixer over the pavilion. This year's match looks a good thing for United Services, but I must not forget that "he who prophesies is lost" nor the unkind way in which the married men belied my expectation last week by nearly suffering an innings defeat.

Footballers have been in a holiday mood, for the Association players of the Club were resting preparatory to their great game with the *Glory* in the Shield ties to-day, while the Rugby men were engaged in a rather farcical match against the *Golidith* on Christmas Day. The Club won the latter game with ridiculous ease, but it was regrettable that there were so many accidents in its course. The Hongkong Rugby footballer is a vigorous player, which within limits it is a good thing to be. But vigour and roughness are not to be confused if we are to get real football. A more exciting match was played earlier in the day in the Happy Valley, the Midshipmen taking on the Officers of the Fleet at Rugby. The "middies" won a deserved victory. To-day's game at the other code introduces us to the first Shield tie of the 1902-3 season. As the Navy has other representatives, most of us must hope that the H.K.F.C. will win.

The Hockey Shield competition has begun, the *Blenheim*'s team beating the *Ocean*'s this week. These two are among the best sides competing for the trophy. The Club will probably decide its first engagement about a week hence. With its improved team the enthusiastic officials have good hopes of the Shield. I trust that they will be encouraged by the regular attendance of their best men.

Sportsmen in the neighbouring ports have taken the opportunity of the Christmas holidays to arrange interesting programmes. Kobe and Yokohama Rugbyists were to meet at Yokohama on Christmas Day. The Singapore Cricket Club was sending a team to play Perak on the 23rd and 24th inst. There was also to be a football match at Taiping; and then the Singapore team was to go on to Penang where there would be cricket and football on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Whilst this team was touring, the members of the S.C.C. were to entertain new visitors in the shape of a Negri Sembilan cricket eleven. This is the first time that Negri Sembilan has sent a team down to Singapore. The arrangement was to play Cricket on Christmas and Boxing day. The Negri Sembilaners hoped also to play football matches with the R.E. and R.A. at Singapore, if fixtures could be arranged.

Singapore is rejoicing in the arrival of a "classy" racehorse among the 69 horses just brought up from Australia. This is *Cadenas*, who is a bay gelding by *Padlock* from *Tortile* (dam of *Portland Light*) by *Trenton* from *Tourbillon*, by *Robinson Crusoe* from *Cracker* by *Fireworks* from *Beatrice* (dam of *His Lordship*, *His Grace*, *Olga*, &c.), by *Stockowner* from *Lady Heron* from *Omen* (imported). He is winner of W.A.T.C. Grand Stand Handicap (11.6), *Helena* Cup (W.A.) and all aged Stakes, Boulder Farewell Handicap, W.A.T.C. Federal Handicap, V.R.C. Flemington Stakes and Colt Stakes. His record shows him to be a thorough stayer, and his speed is demonstrated by the fact that he has twice done the five furlongs in 1.24.

Singapore papers record that Lieut-Colonel Lawson has beaten all previous records for the golf links at that port by holing out in 77, made up of 39 and 38.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

MARRIED v. SINGLE.

"Is marriage a failure?" Judged by the result of the match played on the 20th inst. it would appear that, from a cricket point of view, at any rate, this much discussed question must emphatically be answered in the affirmative, for the married men were hopelessly out of it from the start and at no time looked to be in it with their less reputable brethren. Indeed, seldom on the Hongkong Cricket Club ground has a side achieved such a hollow victory as that gained by the Bachelors. It is difficult to account for this result, for "on paper" the Benedicts appeared to have the stronger team, and the plea of "bad luck" can scarcely be advanced as an excuse for their downfall, for their captain won the toss and several of their men were let off during their generally short and unproductive innings. Certainly the wicket was not a good one, but the Singles had no advantage in this respect, as it was probably worse when they were batting than at the commencement of the game. No, the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that marriage does not conduce to good cricket, and the moral of all this, to cricketers who have not yet "passed the Rubicon," is, stop on this side!

As stated above, Fawcett won the toss and decided that his side should take first innings. Dixon and Powell were the first pair of bowlers and were not long in finding their way to the wicket of their opponents. Disaster followed disaster with surprising regularity and, with the exception of Fawcett and Forbes, none of the Benedicts made double figures. Powell was mainly responsible for this state of things, and throughout bowled with considerable skill and judgement. Fawcett's 31 was a well-played innings and Forbes hit hard for his 23. Dixon bowled well but did not have the best of luck, as several catches were missed off him—notably an easy one at short leg by Turner, who seems to be getting somewhat less reliable than formerly—and frequently he beat the batsmen but missed the wickets by a fraction of an inch. Powell came out with the splendid analysis of 7 wickets for 23 runs. The fielding was good on the whole, though several catches might have been made that were not attempted and one or two actual ones were missed; on the other hand, it was satisfactory to see Hooper hold a couple of rather nasty catches. The Married were all out at 1 o'clock for a poor total of 92, their innings having lasted an hour and 20 minutes. The Single began batting with Smith and Turner, and Lambie and Fawcett started the bowling. When he had made 13 out of 22, Smith was out to a tame stroke and Dalrymple joined Turner. He left however, with the total at 34 and Dixon came in. He and Turner completely collared the bowling, the latter being particularly aggressive, and, though change after change was made, they were not separated until the score had been taken to 153, at which total Turner's finely hit innings was terminated by a brilliant catch in the long field by F. Maitland, who fell over the guy-ropes of the screen in making the catch. Turner is to be congratulated on at last doing himself justice as a batsman, and it was rather hard luck for him that he did not quite reach the coveted "century"; he, however, was otherwise favoured by fortune, as he might have been caught two or three times during his long innings. His 98 contained two 6's and twelve 4's. Ward, who followed him, immediately began to hit and rattled up a merry, if somewhat lucky, 40 in about as many minutes. Dixon played good cricket for his 35 and Broadbent contributed a useful 30 not out. The innings eventually closed for 239—147 in advance of the score of the Benedicts. As may be imagined, none of the married bowlers met with much encouragement, and of an expensive lot Lammert and Fawcett were the most successful. The fielding was decidedly poor and they were badly handicapped in not having an efficient "stumper." With an hour left for play, it was decided to go on again so as to give the Benedicts an opportunity of

redeeming their fallen fortunes; the more was it considered necessary for them to do this as, by this time, many of their "better halves" had arrived on the ground to witness their "deeds of derring do." Sad to relate, however, their last state was worse than the first, and their second innings was a far worse demonstration of the evils of married life—from a cricket point of view—than the first had been. Batsman after batsman succumbed to the deliveries of Dixon and Rimington, and the innings was little better than a procession to and from the wicket. As in the first innings, only two men made double figures, but as these scores were only 12 and 11 and there were no less than six 0's the total was miserably small. True, they were not all disposed of, but 3 wickets were down for a paltry 32 when the bell rang and put an end to their shame. Thus the match, which had every prospect of being a close one, resulted in the hollowest of victories for the Bachelors by 147 runs on the first innings—time alone saving the Benedicts from the even more inglorious innings defeat. Dixon bowled very well and came out with the splendid analysis of 5 wickets for 8 runs; Rimington, too, was in good form and captured 3 wickets for 20. Where the Bachelors showed themselves to be such complete masters of the situation, it is unpleasant to have to record that two of their number behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner—i.e., by leaving the ground after they had had their innings, without saying a word to anyone, thereby rendering it necessary for their captain to find two substitutes to field for them. It is to be hoped that the mention of this circumstance will suffice to prevent its happening again. The following are the full scores and analyses:—

| MARRIED. | | SINGLE. | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| First Innings. | Second Innings. | First Innings. | Second Innings. |
| P. T. Lambie, c Hooper, b Dixon | 6 not out | 4 | |
| Major Clark, R.A.M.C., c Smith, b Powell | 0 b Dixon | 0 | |
| Mjr. Le Breton Simmons, R.E., b Powell | 4 b Dixon | 0 | |
| Capt. Fawcett, R.A. (Capt.), c Hooper, b Broadbent | 31 c Broadbent, b Dixon | 2 | |
| F. Maitland, b Powell | 4 b Rimington | 0 | |
| E. W. Maitland, b Powell | 8 b Rimington | 0 | |
| G. Lammert, c Broadbent, b Powell | 0 c Powell, b Dixon | 0 | |
| Col. Ferrier, A.P.D., c and b Broadbent | 0 not out | 10 | |
| A. Mackenzie, c Turner, b Powell | 6 c Ward, b Rimington | 0 | |
| Lt. Forbes, R.N., not out | 23 c Turner, b Dixon | 12 | |
| Capt. Tulloch, R.A., c Good, b Powell | 2 b Rimington | 0 | |
| Extras | 7 Extras | 4 | |
| Total | 91 Total (8 wickets) | 32 | |

| SINGLE. | |
|---|-----|
| O. | M. |
| W. C. D. Turner, c F. Maitland, b Fawcett | 98 |
| Lt. H. W. Smith, R.A., c Ferrier, b Lambie | 13 |
| Lt. H. Dalrymple, R.N., b Fawcett | 11 |
| J. T. Dixon, b Fawcett | 35 |
| A. G. Ward (Capt.), c Forbes, b Lammert | 40 |
| S. Powell, c Lammert, b E. W. Maitland | 1 |
| Lt. M. B. Rimington, S.F., run out | 4 |
| F. W. Broadbent, R.N., not out | 30 |
| Lt. M. K. Hodgson, S.F., c Fawcett, b Clark | 0 |
| J. Hooper, c Lammert, b Clark | 3 |
| Rev. E. H. Good, R.N., c and b Lammert | 1 |
| Extras | 3 |
| Total | 239 |

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

| MARRIED. | | SINGLE. | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| First Innings. | Second Innings. | First Innings. | Second Innings. |
| O. | M. | O. | M. |
| Dixon | 10 1 34 1 | 7 4 8 5 | |
| Powell | 15 5 23 7 | — — — — | |
| Broadbent | 5 1 29 2 | — — — — | |
| Rimington | — — — — | 7 2 10 3 | |

| SINGLE. | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| O. | M. |
| Lambie | 10 1 70 1 |
| Fawcett | 16 3 53 3 |
| Clark | 13 2 47 2 |
| Mackenzie | 3 — 16 — |
| E. W. Maitland | 5 — 34 1 |
| G. Lammert | 4 — 16 2 |

H.K.C.C. v. UNITED SERVICES.

The annual match between the above sides commenced on Friday morning. Massed bands of the Fleet discoursed selections during the afternoon. The contest was resumed on Saturday, when Sherwood Forester's band was in attendance, and ended in a victory for United Services. The first day's scores, etc., are as follows:—

| H.K.C.C. | |
|--|-----|
| O. | M. |
| W. C. D. Turner, b Fawcett | 5 |
| E. W. Maitland, c Clark, b Mackinlay | 0 |
| William Dixon, c Garde, b Mackinlay | 0 |
| H. Arthur, b Mackinlay | 12 |
| J. T. Dixon, c Garde, b Mackinlay | 10 |
| F. Maitland, b Fitch | 24 |
| A. G. Ward (Capt.), c Smith, b Mackinlay | 15 |
| T. E. Pierce, b Mackinlay | 8 |
| S. Powell, c Smith, b Toulmin | 4 |
| P. T. Lambie, not out | 10 |
| C. R. S. Cooper, c Moore, b Mackinlay | 2 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 162 |

UNITED SERVICE.

| UNITED SERVICE. | |
|---|-----|
| O. | M. |
| Capt. Fawcett, R.A., b Powell | 7 |
| R. B. Garde, R.N., b A. T. Dixon | 41 |
| C. H. McPringle, R.N., b Cooper | 35 |
| G. Moore, R.N., b J. T. Dixon | 40 |
| Lt. Smith, R.A., c and b J. T. Dixon | 11 |
| Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., b J. T. Dixon | 0 |
| Mjr. Clarke, R.A.M.C., c Lambie, b Pearce | 22 |
| A. W. Mackinlay, c J. T. Dixon, b Pearce | 1 |
| Lt. Rimington, S.F., not out | 0 |
| Lt. Mahan, R.N., c Pearce, b J. T. Dixon | 1 |
| E. W. Fitch, R.N., c Ward, b J. T. Dixon | 0 |
| Extras | 9 |
| Total | 167 |

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

| H.K.C.C. | | UNITED SERVICE. | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----|
| O. | M. | O. | M. |
| Mackinlay | 17 3 45 7 | | |
| Fawcett | 6 1 27 1 | | |
| Fitch | 4 — 21 1 | | |
| Toulmin | 6 4 7 1 | | |

| UNITED SERVICE. | |
|-------------------|------------|
| O. | M. |
| Cooper | 15 2 42 1 |
| Powell | 1 2 2 35 1 |
| W. Dixon | 4 1 11 — |
| Lambie | 4 — 21 — |
| J. T. Dixon | 17 6 35 6 |
| Pearce | 6 1 14 2 |

CRAIGENGOWER C.C. v. ARMY ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

The above teams met at the Happy Valley on the 22nd inst. and after a very keenly fought game the match ended in favour of the A.O.D. by 2 runs. The following are the scores and analysis:—

| A.O.D. | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| O. | M. |
| Lillywhite, b Brawn | 17 |
| Jewsbury, b Pestonji | 1 |
| Skinner, b Brawn | 4 |
| Rutter, b Pestonji | 0 |
| Hirford, b Pestonji | 0 |
| Gold, b Pestonji | 2 |
| Cooke, b Pestonji | 6 |
| Moore, run out | 0 |
| Bromley, b Pestonji | 0 |
| Langley, c Asger, b Brawn | 0 |
| Lashbrook, not out | 3 |
| Extras | 0 |
| Total | 33 |

| CRAIGENGOWER C.C. | |
|--|----|
| O. | M. |
| J. P. Jordan, b Bradford | 0 |
| A. O. Brawn, b Cooke | 0 |
| M. E. Asger, b Bradford | 2 |
| R. Bana, c Bromley, b Bradford | 6 |
| L. E. Lammert, c Cooke, b Bradford | 0 |
| L. A. Rose, b Bradford | 1 |
| R. Pestonji, run out | 0 |
| J. L. Stuart, run out | 11 |
| M. H. Harteam, b Bradford | 6 |
| A. E. Asger, c Bradford, b Cooke | 0 |
| L. Vincenot, not out | 0 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total | 31 |

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

| A.O.D. | | CRAIGENGOWER C.C. | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|----|
| O. | M. | O. | M. |
| Brawn | 9 2 18 3 | | |
| Pestonji | 8 5 3 15 7 | | |

| CRAIGENGOWER C.C. | |
|-------------------|------------|
| O. | M. |
| Bradford | 8 6 7 6 |
| Cooke | 7 3 2 19 2 |

Mr. Louis Gros, who came out from Lyons as silk inspector to Messrs. Strachan and Co. over 20 years ago, died at Yokohama on the 5th inst. aged 52.

A serious famine is prevailing in the Pescadores. Almost the whole of the population of the islands are near starvation. The cereals are exhausted and the people are living on seaweed and the vines and leaves of the sweet potato. Out of a population of 53,114, more than 8,900 have been obliged to leave to seek work and food, and 7,377 people are receiving relief. Subscriptions are being collected at Formosa.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. H.M.S. "OCEAN."

These teams met on the Club ground at Happy Valley on the 20th inst. and a good match was witnessed. Among the spectators, of whom there was a large crowd, was H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake. The teams lined up as follows:—

H.K.F.C.—C. C. Hickling, goal; T. E. Pearce and J. W. C. Bonnar, backs; G. B. Macdonald, C. T. Kew, and R. Kerr, halves; W. R. Lemarchand, E. J. Libaud, C. R. S. Cooper, W. W. Clarke, and G. A. Cooke, forwards.

H.M.S. *Ocean*—Lewis, goal; Harper and Hall, backs; Bates, Whitworth and Richards, halves; Clarke, Husband, Winearls, Lewis and McLean, forwards.

Referee—Mr. Lane, H.M.S. *Glory*.

The Club kicked off with their backs to the sun. Their initial rush was checked effectively and the ball was quickly taken into their own territory by the *Ocean*, who within the first five minutes of the game had two unsuccessful tries at goal. In a third attempt which followed the Navy had hard lines in not scoring, for Hickling fozzled the ball and but for Bonnar coming to the rescue a goal seemed inevitable. Several times the Club broke away; their charges, however, were of no avail against the stone wall defence of Hall and Harper, while Whitworth, the *Ocean* centre-half was proving himself a thorn in the side of the Club forwards. In one of these runs Libaud experienced hard luck in not finding the net. On the whole the naval team were doing most of the pressing. Yet, contrary to expectation, the Club were the first to score. Their left wing got away on the run and from a beautiful centre pass Libaud scored a very neat goal. After this the *Ocean* pressed hard. McLean got away down the wing and passed across the goal mouth but his pass was missed by both Winearls and Bates. Then followed a bit of a loose scrimmage in front of the Club goal, and Husband getting the ball at his foot sent in a deceptive half-skied shot which beat Hickling by reason of its very deceptiveness. Apparently he misjudged its flight. This half a 35 minutes half, owing to the referee's watch stopping—ended without further scoring, though the Navy had the privilege of a penalty kick if the Club goal-keeper running too far out while handling the ball.

Half-time score—H.K.F.C., 1 goal; *Ocean*, 1 goal.

The opening stages of the second half were marked by fast play without much advantage being gained on either side. Then the superior stamina of the naval team became apparent. They invaded their opponent's ground and hardly ever left it. Clarke, the *Ocean*'s outside left (the Club's outside left was also a Clarke) showed up remarkably well along with his partner Husband. A fine run of his was brought to an end by Bonnar, who however had to concede a corner. From the corner-kick the *Ocean* secured their second goal in a very clever manner. Play was afterwards transferred to the other end of the field and a penalty was awarded to the Club for one of the forwards being fouled inside the line. Rutherford took the penalty but it proved fruitless, for he sent the ball right into Lewis's feet and the latter cleared in good style. Rutherford, notwithstanding this failure to score off the placed kick, was playing a busling useful game and had hard lines several times in front of goal. The navy left wing continued to give Macdonald at half-back more than enough to do between them, their invasions of the Club territory being frequent and swift. Nor was the right wing of the *Ocean* unnoticeable. McLean had more than one good run, clever though fruitless. But this continuous pressure of the sailors upon the home defence was making an impression. Winearls, securing the ball in centre-field, passed it to Husband, who sent it on to Clarke, his partner on the wing. Clarke made no mistake. He took the ball cleverly up the line and centred nicely when near goal. McLean and Lewis were waiting for the pass and between them the goalkeeper was rushed and the ball banged into the net. Towards the close of the game, which ended without further scoring, the Club had some tries at goal, but weak shooting characterised almost all their attempts.

Result—*Ocean*, 3 goals; H.K.F.C., 1 goal. The Club right wing was strong, the left weak. Kew and Rutherford distinguished themselves. The full-back line played a fine game and Hickling kept a better goal than the three points scored against him would indicate. Of the *Ocean* team, Whitworth at centre half and Clarke on the outside left were the most prominent. Winearls played a strong game, too, and, as for the back division, we have already commented upon the stone-wall nature of its defence. The *Ocean* won on merit.

THE NEW PENALTY RULES.

The following new rules regarding the goal area, penalty area, and penalty mark have been kindly supplied to us by Mr. Frank Browne, the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Football Club:—

Goal Area.—Lines are drawn 6 yards from goal posts for 6 yards perpendicular to goal line.

Penalty Area.—Lines are drawn 18 yards from goal posts for 18 yards perpendicular to goal line.

Penalty Mark.—Chalk mark—spot only—12 yards perpendicularly measured from centre of goal. Ball placed on penalty mark and kicked forward; all players outside penalty area except kicker, goal-keeper in goal area.

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

The Hongkong Chess Club, at a general meeting held on the 22nd inst., decided to move its headquarters to the City Hall, the Committee of that institution having consented to allow the Chess Club space for tables, etc. The Club will therefore meet in future in the City Hall Library on Monday and Thursday evenings. It is hoped that the greater publicity of the meetings will have the effect of attracting more members. As a tournament is about to start, names of intending members should be sent in to the Hon. Secretary at once.

The match for the Club Championship has been won by Mr. P. W. Sergeant, holder of the Pollock Cup, who defeated Mr. P. C. de Souza, challenger, by 3 games to 2. The latter recovered from the bad start which he made in the match, and the last game was hard-fought right to the end.

HONGKONG.

A case of plague was notified as occurring in the Colony during the day ended at noon on the 19th inst., the victim, a Chinese, dying at No. 5, Wo On Lane.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of Mr. J. Macdonald as Government Marine Surveyor; and of Mr. W. A. Crake as Assistant and Mr. W. Crehan as Second Assistant Marine Surveyors.

H.E. the Governor has appointed the full wing to be members of a board for the examination of interpreters:—The Registrar-General (chairman) the Inspector of Schools, Mr. F. A. Hazland, and Mr. C. Clementi (secretary). M. H. Baptista, a clerk in the Hongkong Magistrates' Chamber of Commerce, was remanded at the trial on the 24th inst. on a charge of embezzling on divers dates a sum of \$2,000, the monies of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Looker, who appeared for the prosecution, said his clients were prepared to prove defalcations to the amount of about \$5,000, and asked that any bail allowed be made heavy. Mr. d'Almada represented the accused, who was allowed bail of \$10,000. The case comes on for hearing on the 2nd January.

The Deputy District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China, Worshipful Brother E. C. Ray, attended, with his officers, the regular meeting of the Victoria Lodge No. 106 on the 22nd inst., and installed Bro. E. H. Ray as Worshipful Master. He invested his officers as follows: Senior Warden, Bro. C. W. Longuet; Junior Warden, Bro. C. H. Grace; Treasurer, Bro. F. Mirow; Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. G. D. Gourdin; Senior Deacon, Bro. J. H. Swan; Junior Deacon, Bro. W. C. Barrett; Organist, Bro. C. F. G. Gumble; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. W. J. G. Whitley; Inner Guard, Bro. P. W. Goldring; Steward, Bro. J. M. Crago; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. J. R. Wood has passed his final examination in Chinese.

On the 22nd inst., at the Central Police Station, a Japanese sailor who is accused of murdering his wife in a house in Ship Street on Sunday morning was identified from amongst a number of countrymen by several Japanese female inmates of the house where the tragedy took place; none of these showed any hesitation in pointing out the accused, who is a strongly built man and appeared to realise the gravity of his position. Two women who rushed into the room when they heard the woman's screams say that they saw him jumping on her with his booted feet as she lay in bed. The defendant was brought up at the Magistrate's and remanded.

On the 29th inst. while P.C. 96 Baker and a crew of five Chinese were conveying rations to the station on Yungshüwan Island on the other side of Hongkong, their boat (No. 7) while under sail was struck by a sudden squall and capsized. All the occupants of the boat were thrown into the water. Luckily there were some fishing-boats near at hand and the crew were rescued, though not without difficulty nor without being in great danger of losing their lives, for the currents at the place where the accident occurred are very strong and treacherous. The rescuing craft was fishing-junk 3,607; master, Fan Yung. The police boat crew were taken to Aberdeen in fishing-boat 6,586. All the rations and loose fittings were lost, and Constable Baker also lost his cap and other accoutrements.

The Parsee community of Hongkong has lost another esteemed and familiar figure in the sudden death of Mr. Munckjee Maneckjee Mehta, who has so ably represented the well-known Parsee firm of Tata & Co. for the last six years in this Colony. The deceased gentleman's experience in China trade extended to over eighteen years. He came to the Far East in 1885, and resided at Amoy, Foochow, Tainanfoo, Shanghai, and Hongkong. Owing to his extremely affable and kindly nature he had earned the esteem not only of the members of his own community, but also of all British Indians here. Mr. Mehta died at the age of 55 years of sudden failure of the heart, following an acute attack of congestion of the lungs. The funeral took place yesterday morning and was attended by all the Parsees and a large number of British Indian merchants. Mr. Mehta was a trustee of the Parsee charity funds.

The police reported on the 22nd inst., that a serious street fight between Europeans and Indian soldiers took place in Elgin Road, Kowloon, on Saturday night. Though bad enough at its finish, the affair had a very trifling origin. At the place where the fire in Elgin Road recently took place an Indian constable was stationed on duty, and during the evening he was accosted by about half-a-dozen Indian soldiers, one of whom complained that he had been robbed of a dollar in a certain Chinese house and asked the constable to arrest the person whom he suspected of the act. The constable explained that he could not leave his post, and on his refusing absolutely to proceed to the house indicated the native soldiers set upon him and attempted to "frog-march" him to the barracks on the other side of the roadway. The constable succeeded in sounding his whistle for assistance, and two or three Europeans, one of them a policeman in civilian attire, came from the Queen's Hotel to his help. The Indian constable, as may be guessed, was having a rough time of it, but, outnumbered though he was, he hung on tenaciously to one of his assailants, said to be a jemadar. The Europeans directed their attention to rescuing the constable from his plight and attempting to arrest some of the others, but reinforcements of soldiers from the adjoining barracks made the odds against them too heavy, and compelled them to seek safety in flight. These reinforcements are said to have numbered about a hundred men, armed with Locket sticks, which they wielded with the greatest energy, overcoming all opposition and quite clearing the street. The matter was reported to the police at Tsimshui station who in turn apprised the English officers of the Indian regiment of the occurrence, and developments are now awaited. The affair is one that should be sifted to the bottom, for such flagrant breaches of the peace cannot possibly be tolerated.

The cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week were:—Plague, 1 (Chinese), fatal; diphtheria 2 (1 European, 1 Chinese), 1 fatal; paratyphoid fever 1 (Chinese), fatal.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 21st December were 283 non-Chinese and 114 Chinese to the former, and 85 non-Chinese and 2,097 Chinese to the latter institution.

H.M. the King's approval of the appointment of Mr. R. G. Shewan as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council is notified in the *Gazette*.

On Friday morning, soon after half-past three o'clock, fire broke out on cargo-boat No. 251, which was lying off Wanchai with 400 bales of hemp aboard; the cargo, we are informed, was the property of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and was valued at \$20,000. Under Mr. Robertson, the foreman, the Fire Brigade attended and fought hard to overcome the outbreak, which ended in the almost total destruction of the hemp and the sinking of the cargo boat, whose estimated value is \$1,600. This, with the price set upon the hemp, brings the amount of damage up to \$21,600.—A number of matsbeds were destroyed by fire at Yau-mati early on Friday morning. The outbreak started in one, and spread to the others.

At a regular meeting of Lodge S. John No. 618 S.C. held on the 12th inst., Wor. Bro. Thomas Henry Jewitt was duly installed as R.W.M. of Lodge S. John for the ensuing year. The installation ceremony was performed by the Deputy District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China, Rt. Wor. Bro. E. C. Fay. The officers elected were invited by the R.W.M., and were as follows:—W.S.W., Bro. J. Burgess; W.J.V., Bro. F. Allan; Treas., Bro. A. Ritchie; Secretary, Bro. W. J. Ferrill; S.D., Bro. C. H. Ross; J.D., Bro. R. Hemmings; D. of C., Bro. J. Turner; Steward, Wor. Bro. H. B. Bridger; J.G., Bro. R. Walpole; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone. After the ceremony the R.W.M., officers, and many brethren of Lodge S. John, with several visiting P.M.'s and brethren, adjourned to the Hongkong Hotel, where a special dinner was provided. The usual patriotic and appropriate toasts were proposed and responded to; and after an enjoyable and convivial dinner the company were entertained with music, song and recitation, ably provided by guests present.

Acting under orders, a private in the 10th Bombay Light Infantry on Christmas Day arrested a Chinaman who was alleged to be trespassing on a Government launch lying alongside the Police Pier at Kowloon. Instead of taking his prisoner to the police station at Tsimshatsui, however—he told the magistrate afterwards that he did not know where the station was—the Indian marched him off in the direction of the Bombay barracks, to lock him up in the guard-room. On the way another Chinaman interfered on behalf of his countryman, and told the soldier to take his man to the police station, not to the barracks. This brought about the second man's arrest and ended in the trio appearing in the Police Court, the Indian, as complainant, charging the first Chinaman with assault and the second with unlawfully attempting to rescue the first from custody. The complainant's story was that the first defendant struck him with a piece of coal on the arm, and the second pulled him about to get the other man away. This was denied by the defence, which laid a counter-allegation of assault against the prosecution, and after hearing the evidence the case was dismissed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Tientsin British Municipal Council has started a mounted Sikh patrol.

Singapore is still on the intermittent water-supply system, in spite of recent heavy falls of rain.

General Miles, U.S.A., arrived at Kobe on 11th inst. and was to leave the next day Europe via Siberia.

Notwithstanding the disallowance by the Union Government of several British Colonial Acts affecting the Japanese, nineteen Japanese have been imprisoned at Vancouver for non-compliance with the educational test. They were subsequently released at the instance of the Government.

On the 16th inst. the Japanese House of Representatives was prorogued for five days when about to reject the project of the Government for an increased land tax.

The *Malay Mail* hears that Sir Frank Swettenham has asked Towkay Loke Yew to express his views on the currency question and that the Towkay will shortly call a meeting of the leading Chinese miners to discuss the question.

On the 21st ult. Mr. Weir, M.P., asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was yet in a position to say when the new railway from Jesselton to the interior of British North Borneo would be completed and open for traffic. Viscount Cranborne, who replied, said:—The railway is still 12 miles short of its interior terminus. The whole line (110 miles) should be open for traffic by the end of next year. At present 95 miles are open to traffic.

The 17th annual general meeting of the Perak Sugar Refining Co. was held at Shanghai on the 16th inst. After the report and accounts had been passed, the Chairman (Mr. W. V. Drummond) moved that a final dividend of 7 per cent. making a total of 12 per cent. for the year, be declared—a proposition which was carried. Before the termination of the meeting, Mr. J. M. Young, in moving a vote of thanks to the Board, suggested that the proposed present to the manager of the estate be made more worthy of acceptance. Mr. F. Anderson suggested that the sum be increased to \$1,000. The Chairman in returning thanks said that the Board would be pleased to accept Mr. Anderson's suggestion.

With regard to the alleged *lese majeste* case of the Nippon Railway guard, who accommodated Prince Kan-in in a second-class carriage last November, the Japanese Government has judged the conduct of the Tochigi police who arrested the guard as deserving of censure. The Police-Commissioner of Tochigi Prefecture has received the following paper of reprimand:—“You attributed the occurrence of a mistake in accommodating H.H. Prince Kan-in to a train at Suzumemoriya station of Tochigi Prefecture on November 16th, this year, to the carelessness of a guard named Tanui of the train, judged him to be guilty of *lese majeste* and caused his arrest. This conduct of yours is judged to be a rash act and to be detrimental to official dignity. So you are herewith reprimanded by virtue of the Disciplinary Law for Civil officials.”

The foreigner who committed suicide at Kyoto, Japan, on the 6th inst. has been identified. His name is Bokomoff, he was aged 48, and a Russian officer of the Chinese Railway. He arrived at Kyoto on the 25th ult. and put up at a hotel. On the following day he kept indoors all day, and on the 27th he paid a bill amounting to yen 3.77, and in the afternoon he went out after borrowing a guide-book from the proprietor of the hotel. He returned on the morning of the 29th and on the following day paid 4 yen odd for his board and again went out. He returned to the hotel on the 3rd inst., and the next day went out again. This was the last time the hotel people saw him alive. He had with him a photograph of a foreign lady and a child. A letter in Russian in his possession showed that the photograph was that of his wife and child. He had a passport, in Russian, dated Port Arthur, 6th March, 1902.

The Kiaochau budget for 1903 is as follows:—

| RECEIPTS: | | Marks |
|-----------------|-----|------------|
| From Kiaochau | ... | 455,000 |
| From Government | ... | 12,421,000 |

| EXPENDITURES: | | Marks |
|---------------------|-----|-----------|
| Recurrent expenses: | ... | |
| Civil Government | ... | 966,666 |
| Military | ... | 2,441,755 |
| Joint payments | ... | 1,936,897 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Non-recurrent expenses: | ... | |
| Harbour constructions | ... | 2,990,000 |
| Mining, etc. | ... | 1,934,000 |
| House, godowns, etc. | ... | 2,990,000 |
| Training of streams and afforestation | ... | 106,000 |
| Defence | ... | 700,000 |
| Lighthouses, buoys, etc. | ... | 4,990,000 |
| Floating dock | ... | 1,500,000 |
| Workshops, etc. | ... | 60,684 |
| Reserve | ... | |

12,876,000 12,876,000

A memorial brass has just been affixed to the south wall in St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo, to commemorate the life and work of the late Archdeacon A. C. Shaw. The design was carried out under instructions from Mr. J. Conder, F.R.I.B.A.

In the *Chefoo Express* of the 6th inst. an account is given of the wreck of the *Enseigne Henri*, and it is noted that H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, Captain Wyndham, and the steam-tug *Hesper* did everything in their power to assist the wrecked vessel and her complement.

Yung Lu, according to a Shanghai native paper, has been suffering from paralysis of the lower limbs and all kinds of medicinal applications have been of no avail, so, as a last resort, his family have called in the assistance of Buddhist and Lama priests who are daily invoking the good services of the gods on behalf of the invalid; but, it is added, they form an expensive item.

H.M. gunboat *Britomart* arrived at Bangkok on the 11th inst. from Hongkong and anchored in the river opposite the British Legation. The *Britomart* preceded the arrival of H.M. battleship *Albion* with Rear-Admiral Grenfell on board, and was to act as a means of communication between Bangkok and the battleship, which on account of her size, was obliged to remain at the entrance to the river. The *Albion*, which left Bangkok on the 17th inst. returned to this harbour on the 23rd inst.

General Davis, U.S.A., in command of the Philippines, made a report on July 3rd, 1902, on the subject of slavery in the archipelago. The report was based upon the action of Colonel William M. Wallace, commanding at Jolo, in which he refused to return escaped slaves. The Sultan made a complaint to General Chaffee in regard to the matter, which was referred back to General Davis, in command of the department. General Davis declared that escaping slaves should be protected in their freedom, and that all should know that the taking and owning of slaves is forbidden by United States laws. Colonel Wallace says that it would be impracticable to secure the freedom of slaves by remuneration of their owners, as tens of thousands would continue voluntarily their services. They are not especially unhappy and have few wants or necessities. He expressed the opinion that slavery is not uncommon among Christian Filipinos, and adds that “slavery will never be eradicated in these islands until public sentiment in the communities is opposed to it, and this sentiment is slow of growth.”

On the night of the 12th inst. the body of a foreigner was found floating in the lower reach of the Whangpoo River, Shanghai, beyond the wharves. A dagger was sticking into the corpse, which was in an advanced stage of decomposition and had evidently been some days in the water. On the 16th inst. the *N.-C. Daily News* gave the following details:—The body of the deceased has been identified as that of one Max Stockmar, a German, who had recently been employed as a collecting and commission agent by a local firm. He had been missing since the 24th of November, and for some time previous to that he had been very low spirited, it is said, on account of a love affair. Before leaving his house on the 24th ult. he carefully arranged all his papers, made up his uncollected bills into a bundle to be sent to his employers, and wrote a note to a friend thanking him for past kindnesses. His boy states also that he saw him take away with him a dagger. On the same day he was seen at the Camp Hotel, Yang-tzepoo, and later, at the German Camp, in the same locality, and he was last seen at one of the jetties close by. His later movements cannot be traced. The body was found on Friday, as reported, and was in an advanced stage of decomposition, so that it must have been in the water for some days. A stiletto was found in the body, just below the heart, and five other small wounds in the same region showed that the deceased must have made several ineffectual attempts to stab himself before delivering the fatal blow. His clothing was searched, and a sheath to fit the stiletto was found in one of his pockets. An enquiry into the cause of death was held by the German Consul on Saturday, and Dr. Paulun having testified that in his opinion the wound that caused the man's death was self-inflicted, a verdict in accordance with that evidence was returned.

Two hundred and forty-one deaths were registered at Singapore during the week ending on the 6th December. The ratio per thousand was 53.40.

The population of Nagasaki and the number of dwellings in which the inhabitants are housed, have grown remarkably in the last five years. According to the most recent census in the year 1896 the population numbered 71,730, and the houses 9,590. At the end of last year, however, these figures had grown respectively to 142,811 and 19,971. A similar increase is noted in regard to Nagasaki prefecture as a whole. In 1897 it held 845,689 people, living in 154,714 houses. Now these figures have swelled to 970,491 and 167,518.

We have received the *Foochow Echo* of the 13th inst.—By the death on the 11th of Mr. W. P. Galton, aged 64, Foochow lost one of its old landmarks.—Dandy Dick was successfully performed by the F. A. M. & D. S. on the previous Saturday.—The first, second, and third gained by the placed riders at the Foochow Races on the 9th, 10th and 11th inst. were:—Mr. Massy 5.2.3; Mr. Zahu 4.4.4; Mr. Oswald 4.2.3; Mr. A. C. Crighton 3.3.3; Mr. P. Crighton 2.6.0; Mr. Schorr 2.2.2; Mr. Mackie 1.2.2; Mr. Webster 1.0.3; Mr. Skene-Knox 0.1.0.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 26th December.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th December.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White..... | \$8.20 to \$8.25 per cwt. |
| Do. " 2, White..... | 7.78 to 7.90 " |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown | 6.50 to 6.55 " |
| Do. " 2, Brown | 5.95 to 5.98 " |
| Swatow, No. 1, White..... | 8.15 to 8.21 " |
| Do. No. 1, White..... | 7.70 to 7.75 " |
| Do. " 1, Brown | 5.85 to 5.90 " |
| Do. " 2, Brown | 5.75 to 5.80 " |
| Foochow Sugar Candy | 12.15 to 12.20 " |
| Shekloong " | 9.61 to 9.65 " |

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th December.—The upward tendency continues, market being brisk.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary | \$3.55 to 3.60 |
| " Round, Good quality | 4.65 to 4.70 |
| " Long | 4.75 to 4.80 |
| Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 | 3.75 to 3.80 |
| " Garden, " No. 1 | 4.35 to 4.40 |
| " White | 4.85 to 4.90 |
| " Fine Cargo | 4.95 to 5.00 |

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 19th December.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, | \$84.00 to \$128.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24, | 114.00 to 120.00 |
| " 22 to 24, | 120.00 to 128.00 |
| " 28 to 32, | 136.00 to 142.00 |
| " 38 to 42, | 155.00 to 170.00 |

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. | 2.20 to 2.30 |
| 7 lbs. | 2.30 to 2.50 |
| 8.4 lbs. | 3.10 to 3.77 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 3.85 to 5.0 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 d. | 2.61 to 2.91 |
| 58 to 60 " | 3.25 to 3.45 |
| 64 to 66 " | 3.51 to 5.35 |
| Fine | 5.40 to 7.5 |
| Book-folds | 4.55 to 7.00 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards | 0.75 to 1.40 |
| T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y | 1.90 to 2.15 |
| 7 lbs. (32 ") | 2.20 to 2.50 |
| 6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs. | 2.25 to 2.40 |
| 7 lbs. (32 ") | 3.95 to 3.50 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) | 3.20 to 3.75 |
| Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4 " to 14 lbs. | 4.20 to 6.91 |

FANCY COTTONS—

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 8 lbs. | 1.50 to 4.85 |
| Brocade—Dyed | — to — |

DAMASKS—

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Chintzes—Assorted | — to — |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. | 0.77 to 0.60 |
| Velveteens—18 in. | 0.23 to 0.28 |
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 5.00 | per dozen |

WOOLLENS—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. | 0.65 to 2.25 |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths | 1.25 to 3.00 |
| Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. | 6.85 to 8.25 |
| Assorted | 7.00 to 9.40 |
| Camlets—Assorted | 11.50 to 34.00 |
| Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches | 12.50 to 17.00 |
| Assorted | — to — |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Orleans—Plain | 10.00 to — |
| Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. | 0.65 to 0.80 |
| Fine quality, | 1.40 to 2.10 |

METALS—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Iron—Nail, Rod | 4.70 to — |
| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng. | 4.70 to — |
| Swedish Bar | 4.75 to — |
| Small Round Rod | 5.01 to — |
| Hoop 1 to 11 1/2 in. | 6.40 to — |
| Wire, 16 25, | 9.30 to — |
| Old Wire Rope | 3.50 to — |
| Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop | 8.35 to — |
| Australian | 8.35 to — |
| Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz. | 4.50 to — |
| Vivian's 14 20 oz. | 4.50 to — |
| Elliot's 14 20 oz. | 4.50 to — |
| Composition Nails | 61.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs | 39.00 to — |
| Tin | 81.50 to — |
| Tin-Plates | 8.10 to — |
| Steel 1 to 1 1/2 | 6.50 to — |
| SUNDRIES— | per picul |
| Quicksilver | 18.00 to — |
| Window Glass | 5.75 to — |
| Kerosene Oil | 3.00 to — |

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th December, 1902.—Owing to the Christmas holidays only a few days have elapsed since our last report was issued, and in the interval nothing of importance has occurred in our market, which continues generally very quiet.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again been booked in small lots at \$662 1/2, and the rate closes steady. London has improved to £63. Nationals can be procured at the reduced rate of \$26.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have buyers at \$46 with no shares obtainable except at an advance. China Traders are weak at \$58, at which sales have been made during the interval. Yangtzes have sold at \$133 and more shares could be placed. Cantons continue on offer at \$167 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkong's continue on offer at \$345, and Chinas at \$84 1/2.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao fell to \$34 1/2 in the early part of the period under review, but recovered immediately to \$35, at which there are buyers. Indo-China's are slightly firmer under settlement influences, and are wanted at \$85. Ponglases have been negotiated at \$41 and are now enquired for at \$4 1/2. Star Ferries have sold and are wanted at \$23 (old) and \$13 (new). Shell transports have declined to £1.75 6d. sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved to \$6 buyers. Luzons continue on offer at \$12 1/2.

MINING.—Punjoms are easier again with sellers at \$24. Raubs are wanted at \$6. Jelabus and Charbonnages are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GOLOWS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$212 1/2 and \$210, and close with some buyers at the lower rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are wanted at \$88. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$4 1/2.

LAND, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong lands are unchanged at \$185 buyers. Kowloon lands have sold at \$30 1/2 and \$31 and are enquired for at the higher figure. West Point's continue in request at \$7. Humphreys Estates are quiet at \$12 after sales at \$12 1/2 and \$12. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$140 and are offering at \$141. (Oriente Hotels are neglected at \$37 1/2 sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewes are unchanged at Tls. 40. Internationals are quoted Tls. 40. Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 44 and Soychees at Tls. 160. Hongkong Cottons can still be procured at \$14 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments have sellers at \$14 1/2. Green Island Cements have been booked at \$20 1/2 and close with probable buyers. Hongkong Electrics are wanted at

\$13.10 (old) and \$6.65 (new). Ropes can be placed at \$120. Tramways have sold at \$345. Steam Water-boats are wanted at \$8.65. Providents are in strong demand at \$9.85 with no sellers under \$10. China Light and Powers have sold and are in further request at \$0. Philippine Tobacco Trusts have tumbled to \$30 sellers.

MEETINGS.—China Borneo Company, extraordinary general meeting on the 29th instant. Hongkong High-Level Tramways Co., Ltd., ordinary general meeting on the 30th instant. National Bank of China, Ltd., ordinary annual meeting on the 21st January, 1903—transfer books close on the 8th January.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|---|----------|-------------------------------|
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Shanghai | \$125 | (\$662 1/2, sales L'don, £63. |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| A. Shares | 28 | \$26, sellers |
| B. Shares | 28 | \$26, sellers |
| Four. Shares | 21 | \$10, sellers |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | 21 | \$1, buyers |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | 10 | \$35. |
| China-Borneo Co., Ltd. | 15 | \$25, sellers |
| China Light & Power Co., Ltd. | 20 | \$10, sales buyers |
| China Prov. L. & M. | 10 | \$9.85, buyers |
| China Sugar | 100 | \$86, buyers |
| Cigar Companies— | | |
| Alhambra Limited | 500 | \$500, sellers |
| Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd. | 50 | \$3, sellers |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 100 | Tls. 40. |
| International | Tls. 75 | Tls. 40. |
| Laou Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 44. |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 160. |
| Hongkong | \$100 | \$17 1/2, sellers |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$11 sellers |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | \$25 | \$0, sellers |
| Green Island Cement | \$10 | \$20 1/2, |
| H. & C. Bakery | \$50 | \$40, sellers |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | 210 | \$140, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric | 10 | \$13.10, sales buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$5 | \$6.65, sales & sel |
| Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd. | \$100 | \$345, sales |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$5 | \$8.65, buys. |
| Hongkong Ice | \$50 | \$141, sellers |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$25 | \$240, sellers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$88, buyers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$50 | \$120, buyers |
| Insurance— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$167 1/2, sellers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$84 1/2, sellers |
| China Traders' | \$25 | \$58, sales & sel |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$345, sellers |
| North China | \$25 | Tls. 177 1/2. |
| Straits | \$20 | \$1, nominal |
| Union | \$50 | \$400, buyers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$133, sales |
| Land and Building— | | |
| Hongkong Land Inv. | \$100 | \$180, buyers |
| Humphreys Estate | \$10 | \$12 |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$31, buyers |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$57, buyers |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$12 1/2, sellers |
| Manila Invest. Co., Ltd. | \$50 | \$14 1/2, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$60, sellers |
| Jelobu | \$5 | \$14, sellers |
| Punjom | \$10 | \$24, sellers |
| Do. Preference | \$1 | 75 cents, sellers |
| Raubs | 18 | \$6, sellers |
| New Amoy Dock | \$61 | \$44, sellers |
| Oriente Hotel, Manila | \$50 | \$37 1/2, sellers |
| Powell, Ltd. | \$10 | \$94, buyers |
| Robinson Piano Co., Ltd. | \$50 | \$50, nominal |
| Steamship Coys.— | | |
| China and Manila | \$50 | \$25, sellers |
| Douglas Steamship | \$15 | nominal |
| H., Canton and M. | \$50 | \$41 1/2, buyers |
| Indo-China S. N. | \$15 | \$35, buyers |
| Shel Transport and Trading Co. | 210 | \$85, buyers |
| Star Ferry | 21 | \$1.75, 6d. |
| Tebrau Planting Co. | \$10 | \$23, sales & b |
| United Abestos | \$5 | \$13, sales & b |
| Do. | \$5 | nominal. |
| Universal Trading Co., Ltd. | \$10 | \$81, sellers |
| Watkins Ltd. | \$10 | \$155. |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | \$5 | \$22, buyers |
| | \$10 | \$7 1/2, buyers |
| | \$10 | \$14 1/2, sellers |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 17th December (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). A considerable business has been done during the week, the market being very irregular owing, in a large measure, to the clearing up for the large settlement on the 29th and 30th. MARINE INSURANCE.—The only business quoted in these is in North Chinas at Tls. 180. Union are wanted at \$4.50. Traders off ring at \$58. FIRE INSURANCE.—No business reported. SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas. A considerable business has been done during the week at Tls. 61 and Tls. 61½ for settlement and Tls. 63½ and Tls. 64 and Tls. 64½ for March delivery. Shares are to-day wanted at Tls. 61½. SUGARS.—Chinas are wanted at \$85. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co.'s shares have changed hands for the settlement at Tls. 8.10 and Tls. 8 and Tls. 8.20. Shares are enquired for forward delivery. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd's shares fell to Tls. 180, at which rate a considerable number of shares changed hands. Rates subsequently steadied a little and shares changed hands at Tls. 182½ and Tls. 185 for settlement and 178 ex dividend of Tls. 7 just paid and Tls. 183½ for April. There are sellers at Tls. 178. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 307½, Tls. 310 and Tls. 312½ for cash. The market is steady at the latter rate. LANDS.—All stocks under this heading are unchanged. Shanghai Lands: Payment for new issue due on or before 31st inst. INDUSTRIAL.—Shanghai Gas old cum new shares changed hands at Tls. 117½, two Cotton Tls. 40 and Internationals at Tls. 40. Laou-kung-mows are offered at Tls. 44. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Business has been done in these at Tls. 290 cum and Tls. 285 ex dividend. The Company paid their 3rd interim dividend of Tls. 5 on the 24th inst. MISCELLANEOUS.—Maatschap, etc., in Langkat: Shares have changed hands at Tls. 157½, 160, 165, 16½ for cash and Tls. 170 for April. Central Stores have been dealt in at \$26, Hotel d's Colonies Tls. 16½, Weeks \$24, Hall & Holtz \$35 and Telephones at Tls. 62. LOANS.—Shanghai Lands 6 per cent. Debentures Tls. 103 and Gas 6 per cent. at Tls. 103.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 27th December.
EXCHANGE.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 177½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 177½ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 177½ |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 177½ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 177½ |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 177½ |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.01 |
| Credits, 4 months' sight | 2.05 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 1.63½ |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 39 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 39½ |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 119½ |
| Bank, on demand | 119½ |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 119½ |
| Bank, on demand | 119½ |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 71½ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 72½ |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 291 p.c. pm. |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 96½ |
| ON HAIPHONG.— | |
| On demand | 1½ p.c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON.— | |
| On demand | 1 p.c. pm. |
| ON BANGKOK.— | |
| On demand | 66 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | \$12.46 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | \$65.20 |
| BAR SILVER per oz. | 224 |

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Benlomond (str.), Pyrrhus (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Oopack (str.).
FOR LONDON.—Valletta (str.), Telemachus (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Prometheus (str.), Peleus (str.), Antenor (str.), Benlomond (str.), Glenloch (str.), Bombay (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Tydeus (str.), Dardanus (str.).
FOR AMSTERDAM.—Oopack (str.).

FOR MARSEILLE.—Pyrrhus (str.), Oopack (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Tonkin (str.), Bombay (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Konig Albert (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Hursberg (str.), Nurnberg (str.), Silesia (str.), C. Ferd. Laeiss (str.), Strassburg (str.).
FOR GENOA.—Strassburg (str.), Bealmond (str.), Tydeus (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Tremont (str.), Shinano Maru (str.), Tosa Maru (str.), Pakling (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Athenia (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Adria (str.), Croydon (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Victoria (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravelli (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Chingtu (str.), Kumina Maru (str.), Eastern (str.).
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Bombay Maru (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—Catherine Apear (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—ARRIVALS.
19, Rambler, British gunboat, from Chapel I.
19, Progress, German str., from Tourane.
20, Algerine, British str., from Canton.
20, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
20, Blenheim, British cruiser, from Singapore.
20, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
20, Dott, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
20, Elita Nossack, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
20, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
20, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Canton.
20, Keelung Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
20, Kwangfat, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
20, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
20, Maidzuru Maru Jap. str., from Anping.
20, Merionethshire, British str., from London.
20, Mutine, British str., from Yangtze.
20, Victoria, American str., from Tacoma.
20, Ningpo, British str., from Chefoo.
20, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
20, Shaansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
20, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
20, Waterwitch, British str., from a cruise.
20, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
20, Yunnan, British str., from Canton.
20, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
21, Athenien, British str., from Vancouver.
21, Phoenix, British str., from Canton.
21, Changchow, British str., from Taku.
21, Eric's Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
21, Hanyang, British str., from Canton.
21, Kampot, French str., from Saigon.
21, Kwangse, British str., from Tongku.
21, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
21, Seitoa Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
21, Triumph, German str., from Takhoi.
21, Iltis, German str., from Macao.
22, Amara, British str., from Taku.
22, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
22, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
22, Daphne, German str., from Samarang.
22, Fearless, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
22, Hue, French str., from Kwanchauwan.
22, Labor, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
22, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Manila.
22, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
22, Vestal, British sloop, from Singapore.
22, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
23, Malacca, British str., from Yokohama.
23, Nanchang, British str., from Hongay.
23, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
23, Ulysses, British str., from Amoy.
23, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
24, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
24, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'v'er.
24, Esang, British str., from Chefoo.
24, Hyson, British str., from Moji.
24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
24, Ningchow, British str., from Liverpool.
24, Paoting, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Prinzess Irene, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
24, Shini Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
24, Ness, British str., from Moji.
24, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
25, Adria, German str., from Shanghai.
25, Chingtu, British str., from Yokohama.
25, Croydon, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from C'kiang.
25, Savoia, German str., from Vladivostock.
25, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
26, Clive, British transport, from Shanghai.

26, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
26, Hinsang, British str., from Moji.
26, Hoihow, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
26, Korea, Russian str., from Singapore.
26, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
26, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
26, Picciola, German str., from Chinkiang.
26, Sado Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
26, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
26, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
27, Bjorn, Norwegian str., from Moji.
27, Hokoku Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo.
27, M. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Nijui Norogorod, Russian str., from Odessa.
27, Robilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
27, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
27, Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.
27, Tonkin, French str., from Yokohama.
27, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
28, Anping Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
28, Doris, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
28, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
28, Manila, British str., from Antwerp.
28, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.

December—DEPARTURES.

19, Michael Jepsen, German str., for Hoihow.
19, Saphir, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
19, P. C. C. Klao, German str., for Swatow.
19, Hunan, British str., for Chefoo.
19, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
19, Haiphong, French str., for Haiphong.
19, Yushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
19, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
19, Girin, Russian str., for Nagasaki.
19, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
19, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Bombay.
19, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
20, Bengal, British str., for Singapore.
20, Ballarat, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
20, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
20, Peluse, German str., for Hoihow.
20, Suavia, German str., for Hamburg.
21, Indrasamha, Brit. str., for Portland (Or.).
21, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
21, Saturn, U.S. transport, for Manila.
21, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
21, Elita Nossack, German str., for Canton.
21, Haiphong, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Halvard, Norw. str., for Kobe.
21, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
21, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Tsingtau.
21, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
21, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
21, Pronto, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
21, Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
22, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Ariel, Norw. str., for Canton.
22, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
22, Kwangtah, British str., for Canton.
22, Sleipner, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
22, Silesia, German str., for Yokohama.
22, Tyr, Norw. str., for Hongay.
23, Amara, British str., for Canton.
23, China, German str., for Singapore.
23, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
23, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
23, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
23, Hanyang, British str., for Moji.
23, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
23, Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
23, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
23, Labor, Norwegian str., for Canton.
23, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
23, Seitoku Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
23, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
23, Wakamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
24, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
24, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
24, Chwanshan, British str., for Swatow.
24, Emma Luyk n, German str., for Saigon.
24, Haldia, Norw. str., for Kwangchauwan.
24, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
24, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
24, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
24, Hyson, British str., for London.
24, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
24, Lienshing, British str., for Canton.
24, Maidzuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
24, Malacca, British str., for Singapore.
24, Prometheus, British str., for Kobe.
24, Progress, German str., for Touron.
24, Prinzess Irene, German str., for Shanghai.
24, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
24, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.

24, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Theodor Wille, Norw. str., for Manila.
 24, Ulysses, British str., for Singapore.
 25, Eros, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 25, Haldis, Norw. str., for Kwangchauwan.
 25, Karin, Norw. str., for Kwangchauwan.
 25, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26, Ningchow, British str., for Vancouver.
 26, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 27, Clive, British transport, for Calcutta.
 27, Deuteros, German str., for Kobe.
 27, Hyson, British str., for London.
 27, Indradeo, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 27, Korea, Russian str., for Shanghai.
 27, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Nijni Novgorod, Rus. str., for P. Arhur.
 27, Sado Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 27, Savoia, German str., for Canton.
 27, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Wuhu, British str., for Kobe.
 27, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 28, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 28, Daphne, German str., for Amoy.
 28, Hikosau Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 28, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Bengal*, from Yokohama, for London, Mrs. and Miss Deacon: for London; from Shanghai, Messrs. M. R. Agnew, Sam H. Shorrocks, E. B. Taster, A. Black, J. Black; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. S. Deacon, Mr. J. Mitchell; for Hongkong, Mrs. Hall and child, Mr. and Mrs. Schultdt, Messrs. N. E. Robinson, E. H. Coaling, S. Perry, L. S. Webb, A. Bastien, L. Perpeto; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, Misses Goddard, R. Adams, Lockett, Nettleford, Sparks (two), and Mr. J. C. Richardson.

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Per *Malacca*, from Yokohama, Mrs. J. H. Cooper and Mr. J. Robinson.

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Per *Rosetta Maru*, for Manila, Mrs. E. G. Mackey and baby, Mrs. G. Andrew and baby, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. S. Nagamatsu, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Misu, Misses H. Cardemic, Cragg, E. T. Jesus, M. Nakamura, Messrs. Frank Martin, H. Kemblein, M. F. Pelican, Willy Lehlitzke, Roth, Rietschel, M. Henry, E. D. Goggins, C. Coll. August Dahl, Willy Ernst, Richter, and K. Yahn.

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Silvesti, J. Biagi; from Colombo, Dr. Borgini, A. E. Seager; for Kobe, from Europe, Misses R. Read, Helen Edgerton, Mr. and Mrs. Inazo iobe, Master Nitobe, Messrs. Ing, no'l, G. Raepor, A. Wulff, V. Nette, K. Masonda; for Yokohama, Mrs. L. Urban, Mrs. Kishi and child, Mr. A. Haberer, Dr. Matthiolina, Mr. Thil and family, Messrs. Robert Vrick, Alfred Elias, Oberstabsarzt, W. H. Pitts, Otto Büsing, L. Urban, Johann Schorghuber, and Tomohiko Mayeshima.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Pearne and two children and Miss Scaufield.

Per *Savoia* from Valdivostock via Chetoo, Mrs. Baron von Bibo, Messrs. Eickvede and Stone and Miss Seper.

Per *Chingtu*, from Yokohama, Mrs. Neilsen, Misses Lottie and Do a Neilsen, Misses C. Boyd and Ohlsen, Capt. Neilsen, and Mr. K. A. Ferguson.

Per *Clive*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Major Gordon Cumming, Lieuts. Rundle, Ayleen and Turner; for Calcutta, Major Maxwell, Capt. Wright, Robson and Perkington, Lieuts. Smith, McKenne, Gwyne, Harbert, Clarke, Lapsby, I.M.S., and Birdwood.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Loong ang*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Flynn, Miss Esta Blanche, Capt. J. C. Dow, Messrs. A. B. Loud, and E. E. Baker.

Per *Rohilla Maru*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson & child, Misses Breton (two), M. Fukuda, I. Shikimi, K. Sakai, N. Noda, S. Kubota, H. Supemitsu, Master L. Breton, Messrs. E. C. Newby, E. M. Hughes, and F. G. Piride.

Per *Bengal*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. G. Davis, for Colombo, Mr. A. B. Nielson; for Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Cardwell; for Bombay, Mr. K. D. Hormusjee; for Suez, Mr. Gilchrist; for Brindisi, Mrs. L. K. Veale, Mrs. R. E. Barker, Mrs. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. eus, Misses Wood, Whitehead, Major Hutchinson, Messrs. J. Reid, H. C. Bartlett, E. H. Brown, Burton, F. Damert; for London, Mrs. J. C. Richardson, Mrs. C. Shatto, Mrs. J. A. Reeve, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Woolley, Misses Nettlefold, Spark, H. Sparks, F. Lockat, R. Adams, N. Webster, Walker, P. Saarlös, Lieut. Wyberg, Messrs. R. A. Blackwell, H. very, S. H. Cobb, M. H. Grosamayer, L. W. Yaggy, W. F. Hopkins, J. Back, Engineer H. E. Rook, Messrs. G. H. Potts, Taylor, W. S. Thomas, Pte. Watkins, C.S., Major Lovell; Wife and two children; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. S. Deacon, Mr. J. M. h-ll; for London, Mrs. Deacon, Miss Deacon, Messrs. R. Agnew, S. H. Shorrocks, H. H. Potts, E. B. Foster, A. Black, and J. Black.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Mrs. H. A. Bispham, Miss M. Castello, Messrs. R. R. Reid, Wm. MacGibbon, J. Barratt, H. M. Ayres, B. J. Bulkley, H. Dailey and Thos. Farrall.

Per *Haiphong*, for Haiphong, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sharp, Misses E. H. Gray, V. A. Tullie, Ethel Cunliffe, A. J. Neale, Dr. J. R. McDill, Consul O. Gumprecht, Messrs. E. Thevenard, J. W. Houston, J. J. B. Heemskerk, W. Strattam, W. Melch rs. T. T. Wee, Hiente A. Pasquet, Albert, C. A. H. Westerbarger, M. Herag, W. Gilkyson, M. Desthieux, Zuccol C. Asano, and Duchemin.

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Printed and published by ALFRED CUNNINGHAM for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road, Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.
 London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.